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SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 • VOLUME 29 • NO. 8

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Volume 29, Issue 9 recapping the Arkansas State game will be mailed on Monday, Sept. 15. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

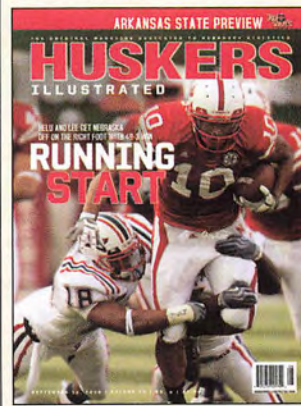
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ON THE COVER

The Huskers established a dominant running game against the Owls en route to a 49-3 season-opening victory. Roy Helu Jr. led the way with 152 yards on 16 carries, an average of 9.5 yards per carry.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Husker youth puts playmakers on field



NEBRASKA MADE a number of positive first impressions in its season-opener against Florida Atlantic.

In fact, of the 85,719 in attendance for Nebraska's 298th consecutive sellout, it's safe to say there weren't too many disappointed customers. And for good reason – the win marked Nebraska's largest margin of victory in a season opener since a 76-14 pasting of North Texas in 1993.

Among the impressed was Florida Atlantic Coach Howard Schnellenberger.

"I think it's a team that has about the best coach that I've been around lately," Schnellenberger said after the game. "I think they have some very good players, but I don't think they're overly talented. I think the sum of the parts is a lot greater than the individual talent they have, and that's a compliment, it's not to take anything away from them.

"They play hard, they run hard, they block hard, they tackle hard, and they're a very physical football team."

Unlike Schnellenberger, I was

impressed with Nebraska's individual talent. Compared to the last few years, Nebraska seemed faster and more athletic at a number of positions. But the most interesting part of that talent is its collective age.

Take a glance at Nebraska's offensive statistical leaders from Saturday, and you'll notice only one senior – wide receiver Menelik Holt.

While there are several key seniors on defense, there is an equal amount of talent among the underclassmen. Obviously quarterback Cody Green and I-back Rex Burkhead captured the imaginations of fans with their debuts. But for this writer, linebacker Will Compton, Sean Fisher and Cameron Meredith were equally remarkable.

In all, seven Huskers made their first-ever starts and four true freshmen made their way on the field. While it won't guarantee success in 2009, the development of this youth movement could pay big dividends in the future. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

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NO HEAD GAMES

BLAKE LAWRENCE's new helmet has made him the envy of his teammates.

Hey, no problem. They could have one like it. "I said, 'Just get three concussions, man; you'll get a sweet helmet like this,'" Nebraska's junior weakside linebacker said.

Lawrence suffered a third concussion in 12 months during spring practice.

"At the time, I didn't think it was very serious," he said. "Then the doctors and trainers said, 'This is a big deal. This is kind of a red flag. It's three in one year. We've got to go through all this testing, and you've got to really decide if you want to play football again.'"

"Hearing that for the first time was kind of shocking."

Lawrence didn't want to give up football. But he didn't want to do something that would jeopardize his health, or even his life. So he had an MRI, to "check the physical effects of a concussion on my head," he said. And he "did a lot of neuro-psychological testing – that's a good word for you."

Based on those results, he was cleared to play. Then he got the helmet.

His high school coach "turned me onto it," he said.

The helmet is a Xenith X1, developed by a Massachusetts-based company. The company CEO is a former Harvard quarterback who also dealt with concussions, Vincent Ferrera.

Instead of traditional foam padding, the Xenith X1 has 18 air-filled, circular

shock absorbers. "When you get hit, they compress at a slower rate," Lawrence said, demonstrating in pre-season camp. "That means your head is stopped, kind of like driving a car and you're hitting a bunch of crash bags before you hit the wall . . . the slow stop doesn't make your brain ricochet in your head."

The helmet was developed over four years, with more than \$10 million in financing, and costs as much as twice what other helmets cost, according to Popular Science magazine.

"Another good thing about this helmet is, it has great air flow. There's a lot of gaps in here, spaces between the circles (of padding) that other helmets don't have," said Lawrence. "So when air comes in, it really

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ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

One season has brought about a significant change in attitude among the Cornhuskers. "I felt when I first got around this group that there was a sense of dread sometimes when they came over to go to (summers) workouts, and they were looking for the easy way out. Now I think they're looking to get better," coach **BO PELINI** said at Big 12 Media Days in late July. "That's a great thing.

"Right now, they understand what it means to compete and to go out there and work hard every day. That gives us a chance to be a good football program."

During pre-season practice, he reiterated that point.

"If you come out to get through it, if you don't compete, then other people are going to pass you by. And that's the facts. That's what we were last year," said Pelini.

"We didn't always come out here with the right attitude, the right focus."

flows on you head, and you don't really get that hot."

There are no guarantees. "Nothing's concussion proof; nothing out there is," Lawrence said, noting that statistically, he is "300 percent" more likely to suffer a concussion than someone who has never suffered one. "But this is a step in the right direction for me.

"And as my family and coaches decided, this would be the best way to go."

Lawrence wasn't reluctant to talk with reporters about the concussions. "I'll be straight with you guys," he said. "I'm cleared, man. I don't want to hide it. I want to be out there, so there's nothing to hide for me. We're just praying it doesn't happen again. It's out of my hands."

TOUGH BREAK

Freshman offensive lineman **BRENT QVALE**, from Williston, N.D., might have played without redshirting this season if not for a shoulder injury suffered during pre-season practice. He impressed offensive line coach **BARNEY COTTON** before being sidelined by the injury.

"There are times where he's so big, you can't see the defensive guy on the other side of him," Cotton said of the 6-foot-7, 330-pound Qvale. "He just kind of blocks out the sun, he's so tall and so wide and so long. And he's got a lot of want-to in him, as well."

He also has "really good feet," said Cotton. Qvale was working at guard.

SIDELINES



NOT-SO-CRAZY GUY

Take it from center **JACOB HICKMAN**, I-back **ROY HELU, JR.** is a "little crazy."

How so?

"Talk to him, it doesn't take long," Hickman said. "He just does outlandish stuff."

Hickman's description was all in good fun.

"Crazy? Well, you'd have to ask them," Helu said of his teammates. "But a lot of people tell me I'm weird, and I enjoy that; I really do."

Is he weird like a kicker?

"I'm not that type of weird," said Helu. "My lifestyle's a little different than most college students. My freshman year after the Oklahoma State game, stuff happened where I made Jesus Christ my lord and savior, and ever since then, being a disciple out there has really changed my life."

Helu is "an awesome guy," Hickman said.



Number Progression

His first two seasons at Nebraska, the first as a redshirt, quarterback **ZAC LEE** wore a No. 3 jersey. This season, he's wearing a No. 5. Why change? "To sell jerseys," Lee said.

OK, he was just kidding about that.

"No, I've just always been No. 5," he said. "It's not really a huge deal, but it was open and I figured, 'Why not?' I've had some success with it. It got me here, so why not stick with it?"

I-back **MARLON LUCKY** wore No. 5 on offense the past two seasons, after wearing No. 20 his first two seasons at Nebraska.

LEON JACKSON had No. 5 on offense before Lucky.

Cornerback **ANTHONY WEST** is No. 5 on defense.

Who wore No. 3 on offense before Lee got it two years ago? Yep, **HARRISON BECK**, who now plays for Terry Bowden at NCAA Division I-AA North Alabama, transferring (again) from North Carolina State.

Who wore No. 5 on offense before Lucky? Wide receiver Shamus McKoy.

COMPARISON

NDAMUKONG SUH doesn't necessarily see his game in terms of the games of other defensive tackles. However, "I would like to kind of compare it to Warren Sapp," he said. "That's somebody I've always looked at and kind of tried to pattern my game after, but I think I try to be myself.

"I want to take great pieces from other players. I'm not opposed to that at all because how do coaches get better? They learn from other coaches."

What does he appreciate about the way Sapp played?

"I loved his motor and the way he was relentless getting after the ball and how he destroyed the middle. He made it so tough for offenses to run. If he wasn't putting on pressure or making the play, he was helping other people make the play," Suh said.

"That's something I want to take from him."



SIDELINES

COACHING CONNECTION

Former Cornhusker **QUENTIN**

CASTILLE found a new home with an assist from **BO PELINI**.

Castille enrolled at Northwestern State in Natchitoches, La., where he is eligible this season. Northwestern State is a member of the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision, formerly Division I-AA.

Pelini and Northwestern State coach Bradley Dale Peveto coached together at LSU. "He put a stamp on the young man as being a quality kid deserving of a fresh start somewhere. And that was good enough for me," Peveto told Rich Kaipust of the Omaha World-Herald.

Natchitoches is about four hours from Castille's home in La Porte, Texas.

FIT LIST

BO PELINI was No. 6 on ESPN Insider Bruce Feldman's list of college football's "fittest" head coaches. Pelini's Youngstown, Ohio, buddy Bob Stoops is No. 7 on the list, topped by Florida International's Mario Cristobal. Second through fifth, in order, were: Utah's Kyle Whittingham, Southern Mississippi's Larry Fedora, Illinois' Ron Zook and Miami's Randy Shannon.

Where was USC's Pete Carroll? Ninth.

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MCBRIDE VOTING

Former Cornhusker defensive coordinator **CHARLIE MCBRIDE** is among those voting in the Harris Interactive College Football Poll this season. The 114-member voting-panel includes former players, coaches and administrators as well and current and former members of the media.

The poll, a component of the formula for determining the BCS national championship match-up, is released for the first time in late September.

AMONG THE ALL-TIME BEST



TOM OSBORNE, Nebraska's athletic director and Hall of Fame coach, was No. 34 on The Sporting News all-

time list of sports' 50 greatest coaches, released over the summer.

The list included coaches in all sports, both collegiate and professional.

Osborne was the eighth college football coach on the list, behind (in order) Bear Bryant, Knute Rockne, Joe Paterno, Eddie Robinson, Bobby Bowden, Woody Hayes and Bud Wilkinson.

College basketball coach John Wooden was first on the list, followed by NFL coach Vince Lombardi, Bryant, NBA coach Phil Jackson, NFL coach Don Shula, NBA coach Red Auerbach, NHL coach Scotty Bowman, college basketball coach Dean Smith, MLB manager Casey Stengel and Rockne.

The list was based on a vote of 118 coaches and experts.

SIDELINES



CORNHUSKER CONNECTION

To say that the Southeast Missouri State football coaching staff has a Nebraska connection would be understating. Fourth-year head coach **TONY SAMUEL** both played and coached at Nebraska, and six of his nine full-time assistant coaches played for the Cornhuskers: **TIM MCGUIRE** (defensive coordinator), **CHRIS NORRIS** (running backs), **BRIAN BOERBOOM** (offensive line), **LORENZO BRINKLEY** (wide receivers), **TROY DUMAS** (linebackers) and **KENNY WILHITE** (cornerbacks).

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS

JOE MOGLIA, the chairman of TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., is working as a life skills and leadership consultant for the Nebraska football team, under the direction of **KEITH ZIMMER**, associate athletic director for life skills. Moglia has a football background, having been defensive coordinator at Dartmouth as well as secondary and special teams coach at Lafayette College.

He is donating his services to the football program.



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Christensen a changed man in sixth season

The last time Nebraska played in the Big 12 championship game, **ANDY CHRISTENSEN** was a third-year sophomore and starter at left guard. "So that's a while ago," he said.

It was December of 2006, to be exact. And only two other current Cornhuskers even played in that game against Oklahoma: defensive end **BARRY TURNER** and safety **RICKEY THENARSE**.

Much has happened to Christensen since then, not much of it good. He suffered a season-ending knee injury in the third game of 2007, against Southern California. And he was suspended for an off-the-field incident in a bar, and resulting legal issues, in early 2008. After being found not guilty last September, he was reinstated to the team, though he never played a down.

He's playing now because the NCAA granted him a sixth season of eligibility, based on his also having missed all of the 2005 season because of a shoulder injury, suffered in fall camp.

Christensen never doubted coach **BO PELINI** would allow him to return to the team when the legal issues were resolved. "I was not worried, to be honest with you, because I know what I do is right and I know that there is no way that I wasn't going to come back," he said during fall camp.

He weighed as much as 330 pounds a year ago and had to drop weight. He got down to 305 over the summer, expecting to play at 310, the weight at which he is listed now.

Losing the weight "helped out a lot,"



said Christensen.

A first-team Academic All-Big 12 honoree in 2006, and nine times on the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll, he graduated in May of 2008 with a degree in construction management. He's on track to earn a master's degree in construction management in May of 2010.

During the summer, he had an internship with a construction firm, taking classes at night as well as preparing for his final football season. Some days began at 6:30 a.m. and went until 9 p.m.

"I don't have a problem with being focused, but it kept me busy, for sure," he said.

Christensen said he wasn't concerned about how fans would react to his return.

"I don't worry about it at all," he said.

"I've had all the support in the world. I've never lost any friends over this, and I mean, honestly, I don't care."

He has his life in order, he said. "I would say I live my life the right way now. I don't go out anymore. I mean, I still hang out with my friends, go have fun, but as far as like . . . I won't go out to the bars. I don't drink anymore. All that stuff has helped me to get back where I am now."

He's 23-years-old, a Husker veteran. When he made an oral commitment to accept a scholarship from the Cornhuskers, **FRANK SOLICH** was head coach – and Barney Cotton was in a first, one-year stint, as offensive line coach. "Six years, it gets pretty long," Christensen said.

"But as long as this year works out, it will be worth it."

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Lexington, NE



NCAA RECRUITING rules have changed markedly over the years. Consider that in the spring of 1958, when Lexington's **MONTE KIFFIN** decided to accept a football scholarship from Nebraska, Cornhusker coach **BILL JENNINGS** made the announcement. There was

no letter-of-intent-signing-day news conference, no restriction against a coach talking about a recruit.

Kiffin, a prep All-America football player and all-state basketball player, had waited to decide where he intended to play in college until after his high school track and field season. "We are mighty pleased Monte selected Nebraska," Jennings was quoted in the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal.

Kiffin's choices included Oklahoma, where Jennings had been an assistant. In fact, Sooner coach Bud Wilkinson flew to Lexington to visit the week before Kiffin made his decision.

That visit perturbed Jennings, who "had accused his former boss of violating a policy that Wilkinson put into effect at Oklahoma, saying that Wilkinson would not talk to Kiffin until the boy had declared he would not attend his state university," the Lincoln Journal reported.

Previously, three of Kiffin's high school teammates had indicated they also would attend Nebraska: **MICK TINGELHOFF**, **DALLAS DYER** and **STEVE SMITH**.

Kiffin's Cornhusker career was delayed by back problems, which required surgery.

DID YOU KNOW? Lexington was named in honor of the Battle of Lexington (Mass.) during the Revolutionary War. The town's name was changed from Plum Creek in 1889. Also, Lexington High School's athletic teams are nicknamed the Minutemen. **N**

LEXINGTON, NE

County: Dawson

Population: 10,126

Distance from Lincoln: 160 miles

NU football lettermen:

William Berquist, G (1944)
Robert DeFruiter, HB (1939)
Dallas Dyer, G (1959-60-61)
Ted Harvey, DB (1975-76-77)
Tim Holbrook, S (1981-82)
Monte Kiffin, T (1961-62-63)
*Mike Mandelko, OG (1980-81-82)
Brandon Mooberry, RE (1999-00)
James Murphy, HB (1954-55-56)
Jim Murphy, CB (1981-82)
Larry Naviaux, HB (1956-57-58)
Gus Peters, G (1935-36-37)
Rod Reynolds, DT (1983-85)
John Strohmyer, OT (1964-65)
Rob Stuckey, DT (1982-83-84)
**LeRoy B. Temple, T (1908-09-10)
Mick Tingelhoff, C (1959-60-61)
*First-team all-conference

WORTH NOTING: Mick Tingelhoff signed as a free agent with the Minnesota Vikings in 1962, playing 17 seasons and in six Pro Bowls. He started every game at center during those seasons, 240 of them (including four Super Bowls). When he retired after the 1978 season, his 240 consecutive games played were second only to Vikings teammate Jim Marshall's 270 all-time.

SIDELINES



JUSTICE THOMAS

Supreme Court Justice and noted Cornhusker football fan **CLARENCE THOMAS** attended graduation at Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, Md., after meeting two of the school's student-athletes on a return flight from a recruiting trip to Nebraska: **JASON ANKRAH** and **TERRENCE STEPHENS**.

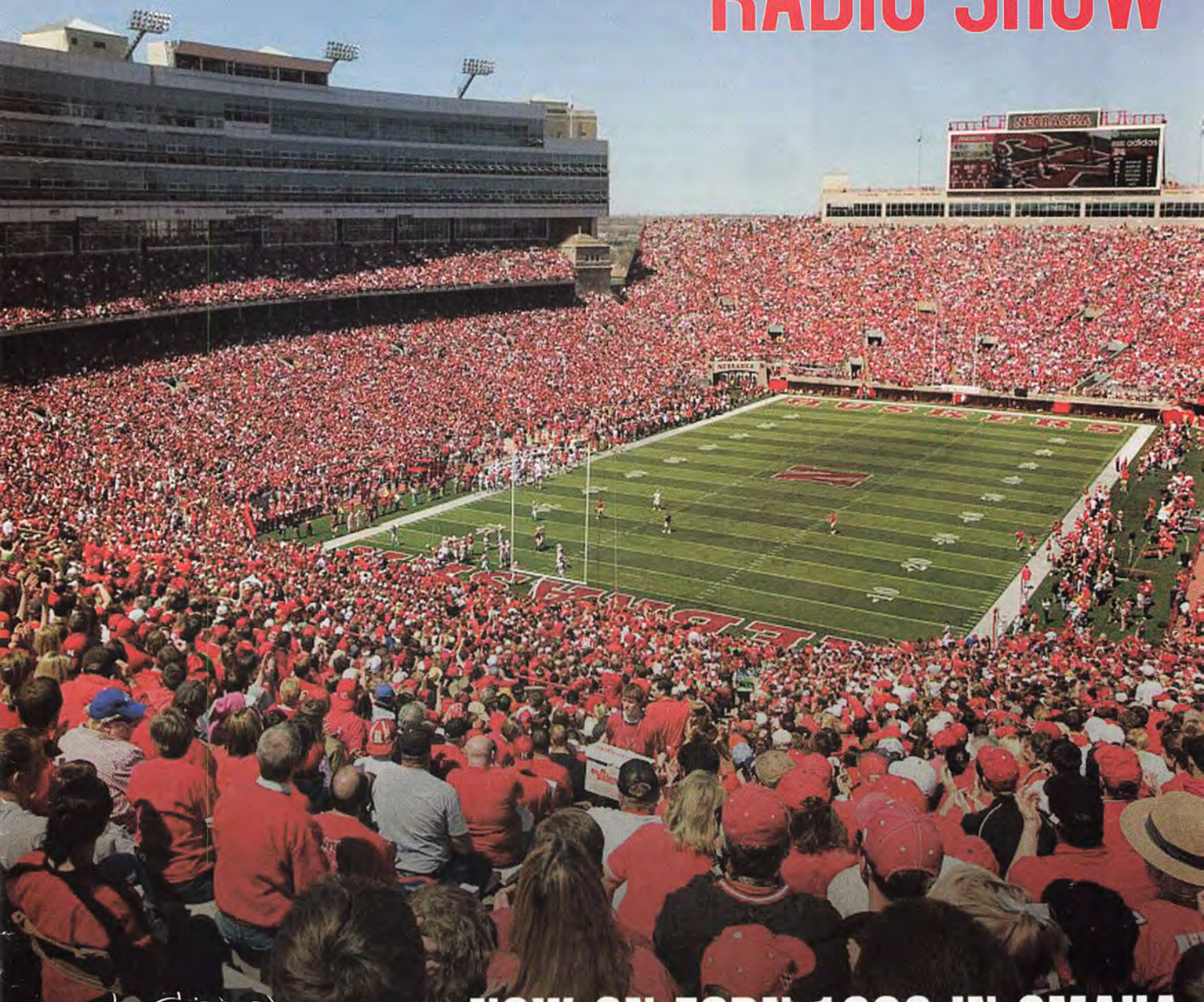
Ankrah is a freshman at Nebraska, of course. Stephens is at Stanford.

At first, Ankrah and Stephens didn't know who Thomas was. "I was amazed this guy knew so much about us as football players and as people," Stephens told NBC Washington.com.

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D.J. Jones

6-5, 315, Junior, Offensive Line, Omaha

D.J. Jones probably should have been playing tackle all along. He appears to have settled in at the position, on the right side, competing with sophomore Marcel Jones for the starting job. "You've just got to keep evaluating them and hopefully make the right decision," offensive line coach Barney Cotton said of his linemen.

Ultimately, it's about comfort for the big guys.

"Sometimes they'll help you, too, say, 'You know what, I'm really not very comfortable.' Sometimes you've got to tell them, 'You've got to push through it.' But then sometimes it becomes obvious that for them to be an effective player, they've got to be comfortable where they're at," said Cotton.

D.J. Jones is a case in point. He tried to push through. Last season, he played sparingly as a back-up to Matt Slauson at right guard, the position he also mostly played in nine games to earn a letter as a redshirted freshman.

Toward the end of last spring, however, Jones was moved to right tackle.

And right tackle is where he has stayed. "He seems to be a better player without two linemen (center and tackle) sitting next to him, playing next to the tight end," Cotton said.

HI: What do fans not know about playing on the offensive line?

JONES: Probably the amount of technique we put into it. It's not just going out there with some buddies and blocking guys. You have to focus if you want any chance to succeed during games.

HI: What's the strangest thing you've ever seen at a road game?

JONES: Just the crazy fans, I guess – the crazy fans that don't stop talking the whole game. Down in Oklahoma (last year), Oklahoma fans were a little crazy and of course Missouri fans. Colorado fans weren't even that bad two years ago.

HI: What's the best advice you ever received?

JONES: Never settle for how you are; always strive to be better. It's helped me a lot.

HI: What is your biggest talent outside of football?

JONES: I like to draw and I like to write. I had an art class a while back, but I write all the time, though it's nothing that gets published or anything. I do expression, basically.

HI: If you were Nebraska's head coach for a day, what's the first thing you would do?

JONES: Just one day? Hmm... well, coming from a players' perspective, I'd probably tell everyone I'd give them the first day off. Then I could sleep, play video games and eat pizza.

HI: Who or what would you compare Ndamukong Suh to?

JONES: Maybe Warren Sapp. Or really anybody who is good. I played against him all of spring ball and after looking back at those match-ups, I think he's really good. I'll say I came out ahead from most of those battles, but you'd have to watch film to see for sure.

HI: What's your biggest football annoyance?

JONES: Probably when I feel like I'm not doing something right and I'm trying to do it right but still not achieving anything. It irks me after a while.

HI: How does having a new quarterback this year affect what you do on the O-line?

JONES: Zac (Lee) was the second-string quarterback last year, so I'm kind of used to how he is. It's not really that much different – because he and (former QB Joe) Ganz are pretty much the same – so it's not much of a struggle to get acclimated to how he is. Having mobile guys like that, sometimes it's easier and sometimes it's harder, but overall it's easier because we can depend on those guys.

HI: Who cracks you up most on the team?

JONES: Latravis Washington is kind of funny and Rickey Thenarse has always been pretty crazy. Overall, they're just silly at all times.

HI: What is life like as a Nebraska starter?

JONES: Of course, there will always be the fans who will be there. But I don't know – things really don't change. When you're a freshman you get treated the same way as if you are a senior or starting or whatever. I don't really think too much has changed for me because our fans always support us. It's always been the same, really.



Tyrone Legette

Football helped him as a builder

REWIND THE CLOCK to 1991. Nebraska was trailing Oklahoma 14-13 midway through the fourth quarter at Memorial Stadium. The winner would play Miami in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

The Sooners were on the move at the Cornhusker 45-yard line and seemed poised to earn that honor. It was third down.

"We were trying to take the air out of that Oklahoma team . . . make 'em quit," recalled Nebraska's Tyrone Legette, an All-Big Eight cornerback who made the most memorable tackle of his Hall-of-Fame career on the next play.

As running back Mike Gaddis started to turn the corner for a first down, Legette came off a receiver, flew out of nowhere and put a lick so hard on Gaddis that the ball popped out of his hands and out-of-bounds. The defense went wild, the crowd went crazy, and Oklahoma had to do something it didn't want to do – punt.

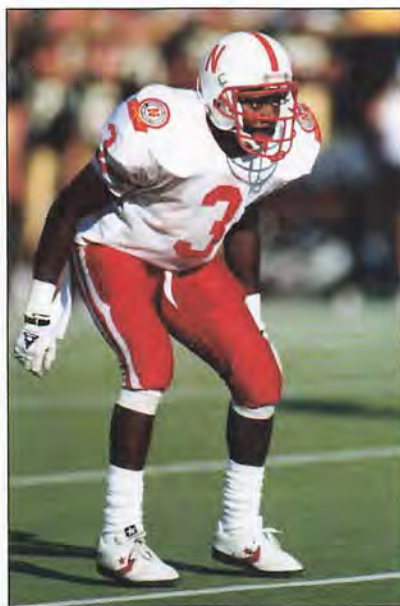
Nebraska scored on the next possession to win the game 19-14.

"It was a real dogfight, and we had the most left," Legette said. "When I played, there was never any quit in us . . . never. It was a lesson I learned for life – keep going as hard as you can, no matter how tough it gets. When you do, good things will happen."

Good things did and still are happening for Legette, who spent seven seasons in

the NFL – five with New Orleans, one with Tampa Bay and his last in San Francisco.

Since 1999, Legette has overseen the building of 150 homes, two 20-unit apartment complexes and a 100-room hotel in New Orleans. He loves the challenge of taking raw land and creating something beautiful. He designs the homes, the streets and the infrastructure and has been able to do it with a certain mindset, one he learned from playing for Nebraska coach Tom Osborne.



"I learned the game is never over until time is up," Legette said. "At Nebraska, we always had a chance to make something happen. That's the way it is



TYRONE LEGETTE

LETTERS: 1989-90-91

POSITION: Cornerback

CURRENT: Residential/commercial real estate owner

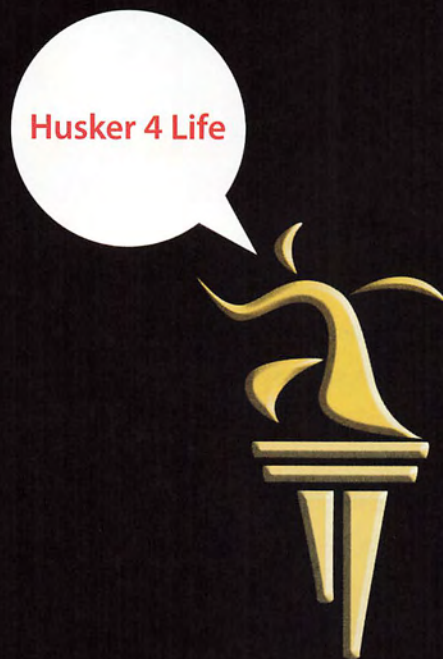
WIFE: Reginene

CHILDREN: Daughter, Tyla, 10; son Tyrone, 9

on a job site, too. We always feel we can make it right. For almost every problem, there's a solution. I learned a lot of that from Coach Osborne."

Miami won the 1991 national championship game 22-0, but Legette always figured the teams he played on helped Osborne learn important things that produced an amazing 60 wins in 63 games shortly after he left.

"I loved pro football, but my experience at Nebraska meant so much more because I played for a coach who made everybody feel important," Legette said. "There were no big I's and no little you's at Nebraska. Everyone was equal, and just about everybody played. I came all the way from South Carolina, and I really felt like I was at home in Nebraska. We were a family, and it was genuine. My son's only 9, but I would send him to Nebraska. There's no better place to learn about life." **N**





STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

What we've learned about Pelini

IF THEY GAVE OUT awards for coaching hires, Tom Osborne would have been named a consensus All-American for nabbing Bo Pelini as Nebraska's football coach shortly after the 2007 season.

The reviews of Osborne's decision drew salutes from ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., all the way to Pete Carroll's USC complex at the opposite end of the country.

Of course, the real litmus test to it all would be the reaction of the masses closer to home, a growing number of which had wavered from their once-undying support over dissatisfaction with the prior coaching staff and athletic director.

By and large, that went over about the same as if someone in their family, or a well-liked neighbor, had just gotten the promotion of a lifetime.

Bo was already a hit with many - not only for the positive impact he'd made his one season as Nebraska's defensive coordinator in 2003, but also for how he managed the program (and led it to an Alamo Bowl victory) for more than a month following Frank Solich's firing.

When Osborne brought Pelini back, he received the kind of welcome that should have made it clear to him most folks believed he never should have gotten away in the first place.

We should all be so lucky to be seen as that person who's "a winner," and Pelini definitely got off to a good start while guiding the Huskers to a 9-4 season one year after they'd gone 5-7.

Along the way, he provided clues about himself and his coaching style that has Nebraska fans feeling even better about the

Huskers' future.

So what did we really learn about a guy we already knew was extremely intense and driven by results? Here's one person's list:

1. He's someone whom coaches should love to learn under, or rather, with:

Look at his staff and you see proven veterans who are getting new-school education, perhaps a couple who could be running their own program and some young guys who you can see eventually reaching that point.

Clearly, these guys enjoy being together and some of that is undoubtedly because Pelini doesn't act like he's already got everything figured out. He may be well-versed in defense, but ideas flow freely.

2. He's a learner, and not just with X's and O's:

Pelini acknowledged he tried to get too tricky trying to confuse Chase Daniel in an attempt to slow down Missouri's high-octane offense after the Tigers pounced on NU. Thereafter, he didn't sway much from relying on a sound, fundamental approach.

He also threw a temper tantrum and got a costly penalty during a key moment against Virginia Tech, and breathed fire at some assistants and players during a gigantic meltdown at Oklahoma. But his sideline demeanor was noticeably more professional the rest of the way.

"It wasn't horrible. But on the other hand, he realized that people are watching. Mothers are watching. Fathers, too," Osborne said. "You saw a pretty marked shift."

3. He has a my-way-or-the-highway

approach with players, but his policy is extremely fair, and if you follow it, he will have your back to the end.

It's become obvious that the players in Nebraska's program appreciate this kind of treatment. Even running back Quentin Castille sounded disappointed that he'd put Pelini in the position of having to dismiss him during fall camp. Pelini then showed unbelievable class in facilitating Castille's transfer to Northwestern State.

Already, Pelini has figured out that you can have clearly defined and demanding rules and still have players who want to go to battle for you.

That was never more evident than at the Gator Bowl, when Nebraska players wore small stickers on their helmets as a tribute to Bo and Carl Pelini's father, Anthony, who died before the game.

4. He exhibits the kind of attitude that lets a team rally from adversity.

After getting walloped by Missouri, the Huskers came whiskers from knocking off unbeaten Texas Tech on the road. After giving up more points than they'd ever allowed Oklahoma, they came back to beat Kansas to start a season-ending four-game winning streak.

"You have to have an edge to you. A lot of it is about attitude and how you approach your job," Pelini said.

5. He's a lefty.

This might be the southpaw in me coming out, but left-handers supposedly have more challenges in life.

Maybe some of Pelini's determination comes from the fact he's a lefty? At a place like Nebraska, it couldn't hurt. **N**

THE WHOLE STORY ON **NEBRASKA** FOOTBALL THIS SEASON

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- Exclusive video highlights
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FLORIDA ATLANTIC 3
NEBRASKA 49



**MENELIK HOLT SCORES
ON A 28-YARD PASS
FROM ZAC LEE IN THE
FIRST QUARTER.**

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Sending a message

Nebraska led Florida Atlantic 14-3 midway through the second quarter, but things were out of sync for the Cornhuskers' offense.

NU had just 15 offensive snaps and the Owls appeared to pick up at least a little momentum thanks to a 21-yard Ross Gornall field goal. That's when offensive line coach Barney Cotton decided it was time for a change of pace for the Huskers.

"Coach Cotton yelled at me from the sideline and said we needed to step up our tempo, getting up to the ball faster, and once we did that, we just sky-rocketed because they were tired," Nebraska tackle Mike Smith said of the Owls' defense. "They were all tapping out. They wanted to get out of the game and we were just pounding the ball and pounding the ball and that gave us huge amounts of confidence.

Apparently so.

Nebraska took its next possession 82 yards on 15 plays, shaving 7:16 off the clock. The march culminated with Roy Helu Jr.'s 1-yard touchdown plunge with 51 seconds left before halftime to put the Huskers ahead 21-3.

"That was really important," Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said. "Barney told me they were nervous, so we got them together on the sideline after we got the butterflies out of them and then told them we were going to pick up the tempo and the kids went down and did a great job. They really got focused after that."

Helu's score just before halftime came



Roy Helu capped a 15-play drive with a 1-yard touchdown run to give Nebraska a 21-3 lead.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

on a fourth-down plunge. It was the fifth consecutive running play to close the drive, which Watson said was no accident.

"Absolutely, we wanted to send the statement to our offensive line that we're going to run the football," Watson said. "I was not going to throw a pass.

"I sent a little message and the kids knew I was doing it, too."

Nebraska's domination up front appeared to carry over into the third quarter as it outscored the Owls 21-0. Smith said it all started with the second-quarter drive.

"They knew they were in a fight then," Smith said. "They knew they were seeing the Nebraska Cornhuskers." **N**

—by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



Linebackers coach Mike Ekeler reacts to a hit by freshman Sean Fisher.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



Jared Crick blocks a field goal at the end of the first quarter.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



Redshirted freshman Baker Steinkuhler logs one of his five tackles.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

A

This is an easy one. **ROY HELU, JR.** showed he's the real deal, averaging 9.5 yards per carry. His 44-yard touchdown run was reminiscent of the great Husker I-backs; just fill in a name. Nebraska averaged 8.1 yard per carry as a team, also reminiscent of great Husker teams.

PASSING:

B+

ZAC LEE threw one interception, the only meaningful mistake in his starting debut. His numbers were solid. So were **CODY GREEN**'s, though he threw only three passes. If not for the interception, the grade would have been in the A range. Efficiency was the key. Tempo needs to pick, in general.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

B+

Florida Atlantic averaged less than 4 yards per carry, despite a fourth quarter in which the Owls ran for 61 yards on 12 carries against the reserves. Plus, the Owls couldn't get in the end zone on the ground or through the air. Scoreboard.

PASSING DEFENSE:

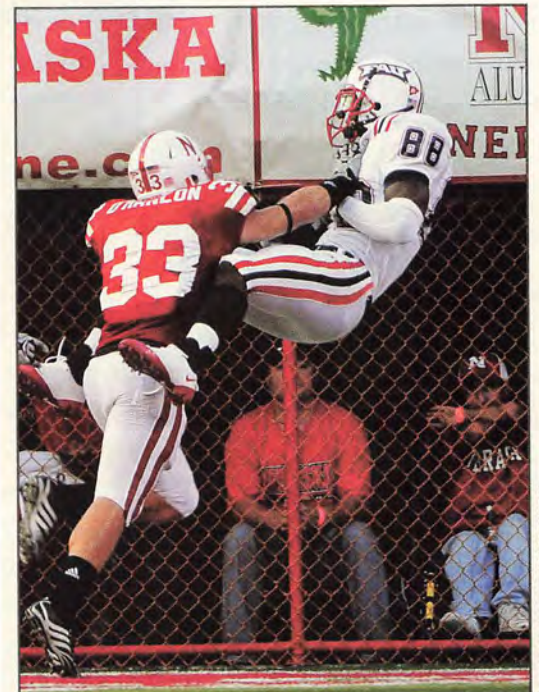
A-

By all accounts, Florida Atlantic's starting quarterback, **RUSTY SMITH**, is an NFL prospect. Yet he threw two interceptions. His back-up, **JEFF VANCAMP**, was intercepted once, though the play was nullified by a roughing penalty. Nebraska didn't get a sack, however. There's work to do.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

B-

Special teams play, overall, "was pretty good," coach **BO PELINI** said. "Obviously, I was disappointed in the blocked kick (punt)." But **JARED CRICK** blocked a field goal attempt, and kick coverage was good.



Matt O'Hanlon breaks up a possible touchdown reception.

PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



LEE'S IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

ZAC LEE's debut as Nebraska's starting quarterback wasn't spectacular, but certainly classified as solid. The junior finished 15-of-22 passing for 213 yards with two touchdowns and one interception in a 49-3 victory over Florida Atlantic.

"Overall, I thought he played outstanding," Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** said of Lee. "He made good decisions. You just see how confident he is and he carries himself the right way.

Aside from the interception, Pelini's only complaint was that the offense didn't operate at a fast enough tempo and were up against the play clock too many times.

"I think it was just some first-game management stuff," Lee said. "I think we got it fixed in the second half. It's just getting used to each other, getting up in the huddle and calling plays with a live clock.

"You try to simulate that in practice, but it's not the same thing."

RUNNING WILD

After a slow start against the Owls, Nebraska I-back **ROY HELU** finished with 152 yards and three TDs rushing on 16 attempts. The junior carried for 95 yards on five carries in the third period alone, including scoring runs of 7 and 44 yards.

Nebraska running backs coach **TIM BECK** said Helu simply started "playing faster" after a tentative start.

"I think maybe he was waiting a little bit too much to see things develop," Beck said.

"In the second half, I think he just started taking some things and things were easier to see and he kind of got into a rhythm."

Helu agreed.

"Just having a good tempo got me into a rhythm," Helu said.

SEEING GREEN

All the preseason redshirt talk about true freshman **CODY GREEN** and junior **LATRAVIS WASHINGTON** at the quarterback spot became moot as both played against Florida Atlantic. Green was first off the bench, coming in for **LEE** with 12:19 to play and Nebraska leading 42-3.

"This is what high school kids dream about when they get to college," Green said. "The atmosphere with 85,000 (fans) calling your name, that's something that sends shivers down your spine.

"I was out there loving it, especially to get to go out there and compete like I did today. I'd give the world to do it again."

Green was 2-of-3 passing for 18 yards and set up his own 1-yard TD run with a 49-yard scamper around right end on a zone-read keeper play.



REX BURKHEAD

STILL A 1-2 PUNCH? When I-back **QUENTIN CASTILLE** was dismissed from the team on Aug. 22, speculation was that Nebraska had lost its potent one-two backfield punch. However, after true freshman I-back **REX BURKHEAD** debuted with 39 yards on nine carries, including a 9-yard TD, it seems the Huskers might have a formidable I-back tandem after all.

In fact, NU running back coach **TIM BECK** said starter **ROY HELU JR.** may have been motivated by Burkhead's energetic play.

"Rex, obviously, is going to be a guy who's going to help us a lot this year and I think he helped pick things up," Beck said. "Sometimes, even a veteran player, they need to just take a breath, see what's going on and talk to the coaches a little bit. Roy and I got a chance to visit and things got better in the second half."

"We wanted to play (Green). If I had a chance, I said I would because I think it's important to our season that he gets game experience," NU offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** said. "We kept it real simple for him and did things he really is comfortable with. He did a really nice job."

YOUNG LINEBACKERS

Nebraska started a pair of redshirted freshman linebackers in **SEAN FISHER** and **WILL COMPTON**. While defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** said both youngsters had their ups and downs, he was mostly pleased.

Fisher finished with six tackles and Compton had five.

"They're very mature and the great thing about it is they learn — every day they learn," Pelini said. "With Will or Sean or any of those young guys, if they make a mistake, then they come back with the

same play and they've got it corrected. So the more snaps they get, the more seasoned they get, they're just going to keep getting better."

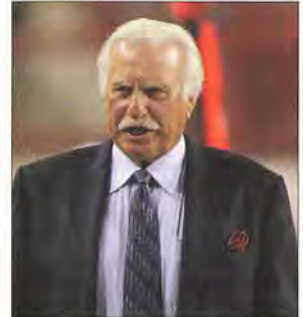
GILLEYLEN 'OR' HOLT

The "or" that separates **MENELIK HOLT** and **CURENSKI GILLEYLEN** at the "X" wide receiver position is just one of 16 such designations on the Nebraska depth chart, which was released two days before the season opener.

Judging by how both receivers played against Florida Atlantic, the competition for playing time will only heat up. Gilleylen recorded four receptions for 92 yards, including a 51-yard TD catch, while Holt had three catches for 51 yards, including a 28-yard TD reception.

"Curenski makes a lot of big plays for us and I try to do the same things," Holt said. "I don't care who's making the plays as long as the receivers are making them."

QUICKLY



WORTH QUOTING

It was only game one, but veteran Florida Atlantic coach **HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER** had perhaps the quote of the year, describing how he avoided injury when he was involved in a fourth-quarter collision with players along the sideline.

"Well, I have a great knack when I see that there's no escape route and the adversary is a hell of a lot bigger, stronger and faster than I am," Schnellenberger said. "I go into a voluntary relax mode and become a rag doll and I can survive almost anything. I was born on a farm where they had a lot of possums around and learned the possum trick."



WORTH NOTING

& Nebraska game captains were senior center **JACOB HICKMAN**, senior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, senior safety **MATT O'HANLON** and junior place-kicker **ALEX HENERY**.

GameStats

SUMMARY

SCORING

Sept. 5, 2009
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,719

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Florida Atlantic	0	3	0	0	3
Nebraska	7	14	21	7	49

First Quarter

	FAU	NU
NU Holt Pass from Lee 28-yards (Henery Kick) 07:41 Drive: 5 plays 44 yds 2:32	0	7

Second Quarter

NU Gilleylen Pass from Lee 51-yards (Henery Kick) 13:43 Drive: 4 plays 72 yds 1:49	0	14
FAU Gornall 21-yard Field Goal 08:13 Drive: 11 plays 71 yds 5:20	3	14
NU Helu Jr. 1-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:51 Drive: 15 plays 82 yds 7:16	3	21

Third Quarter

NU Helu Jr. 7-yard Run (Henery Kick) 12:36 Drive: 4 plays 62 yds 2:17	3	28
NU Helu Jr. 44-yard Run (Henery Kick) 07:26 Drive: 4 plays 68 yds 1:49	3	35
NU Burkhead 8-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:00 Drive: 4 plays 55 yds 2:00	3	42

Fourth Quarter

NU Green 1-yard Run (Henery Kick) 06:03 Drive: 7 plays 80 yds 3:14	3	49
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TEAM STATS

	FAU	NU
Total First Downs	22	22
Rushing	8	13
Passing	11	8
Penalty	3	1
Rushing Attempts	35	32
Yards Gained Rushing	133	262
Yards Lost Rushing	11	3
Net Yards Rushing	122	259
Net Yards Passing	236	231
Passes Attempted	41	25
Passes Completed	20	17
Had Intercepted	2	1
Percent Completion	48.8%	68.0%
Yards per Attempt	5.8	9.2
Yards per Completion	11.8	13.6
Total Offensive Plays	76	57
Total Net Yards	358	490
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.7	8.6
Fumbles: No-Lost	5-1	1-0
Penalties: No-Yards	11-67	9-86
Punts: No-Yards	4-143	3-97
Avg. Per Punt	35.8	32.3
Avg. Net Punt	35.8	29.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards	3-10	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	6-107	2-49
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-0	2-18
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	1-4
Miscellaneous Yards	1	0
Possession Time	32:18	27:42
Third-Down Conversions	6-15	4-10
Percentage	40.0%	40.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-2	2-2
Percentage	0.0%	100.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	0-0	0-0

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Helu Jr.	16	152	0	152	9.5	3	44
Green	2	50	0	50	25.0	1	49
Burkhead	9	39	0	39	4.3	1	9
Lee	2	14	0	14	7.0	0	13
Washington	1	7	0	7	7.0	0	7
Mendoza	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
Total	32	262	3	259	8.1	5	49

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Lee	22	15	68.2	1	213	2	51
Green	3	2	66.7	0	18	0	15
Total	25	17	68.0	1	231	2	51

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Gilleylen	4	92	1	51
McNeill	4	51	0	29
Holt	3	45	1	28
Brooks	1	15	0	15
Paul	2	13	0	7
Burkhead	1	9	0	9
Cotton	1	3	0	3
Helu Jr.	1	3	0	3
Total	17	231	2	51

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	2	49	0	32

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	2	37.0	43	1	0	0	0	1

Defense	Tac	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Thenarse	3	5	8	1-2	0-0	0	1	0
Asante	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Suh	4	3	7	1-1	0-0	1	0	0
Amukamara	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fisher	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lawrence	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Compton	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
O'Hanlon	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Steinkuhler	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	1	3	4	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	0	3	3	0.5-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dean	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stoddard	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gomes	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
West	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Williams	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cassidy	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jackson	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Koehler	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1

FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Morris	18	88	3	85	4.7	0	23
Rose	6	19	0	19	3.2	0	4
Rolle	6	9	1	8	1.3	0	3
Holley	1	7	0	7	7.0	0	7
VanCamp	2	6	0	6	3.0	0	5
Stinson	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4
TEAM	1	0	7	-7	-7.0	0	0
Total	35	133	11	122	3.5	0	23

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Smith	31	15	48.4	2	164	0	27
VanCamp	10	5	50.0	0	72	0	38
Total	41	20	48.8	2	236	0	38

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Rose	3	59	0	38
Gent	5	58	0	27
Grant	5	43	0	15
Bonner	2	27	0	17
Williams	1	18	0	18
Jean	2	12	0	7
Holley	1	11	0	11
Harmon	1	8	0	8
Total	20	236	0	38

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Polo	3	10	0	6

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McIntosh	3	46	0	18
Rolle	2	34	0	25
Polo	1	27	0	27
Total	6	107	0	27

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Groody	1	50.0	50	0	1	0	1	0
Peterson	3	31.0	35	0	0	0	0	0

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Gornall	1	2	21	1

Defense	Tac	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Lockley	4	5	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Alexander	2	6	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bradwell	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bartels	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eugene	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Hill	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McIntosh	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Rodriguez	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Cox	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Joseph	1	1	2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Polo	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thomas	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cross	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cyrille	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gent	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gornall	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Huggins	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jensen	1	0	1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0

2009 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

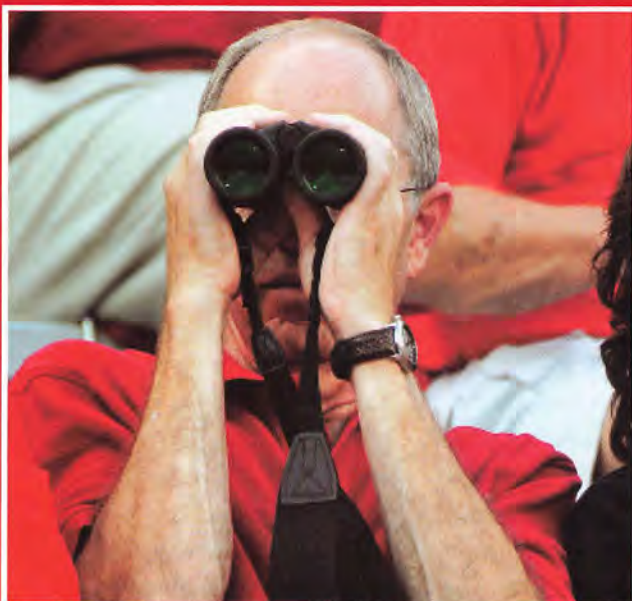
Sat., Sept. 5	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat., Sept. 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	1 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 19	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 26	La-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	6 p.m.
Thur., Oct. 8	Missouri	Columbia, Mo.	8 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 17	Texas Tech	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 24	Iowa State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 31	Baylor	Waco, Texas	TBA
Sat., Nov. 7	Oklahoma	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 14	Kansas	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 21	Kansas State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri., Nov. 27	Colorado	Boulder, Colo.	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, Texas	7 p.m. (ABC)

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

NEBRASKA STARS

- ▶ Millard South quarterback **BRONSON MARSH** passed for 242 yards and three touchdowns against Omaha Westside to give him 510 yards passing and six touchdowns on the season.
- ▶ Omaha Northwest running back **ANTARIES DANIELS** rushed for 169 yards on 34 carries and one touchdown in a losing effort against Bellevue East.
- ▶ Omaha North's **RON COLEMAN** rushed for 72 yards and three touchdowns on Friday against Omaha Bryan to give him six touchdowns on season.
- ▶ Schuyler linebacker prospect **KYLE EMANUEL** had 230 yards of total offense and three touchdowns in a win over Hastings on Friday.

FAN OF THE GAME

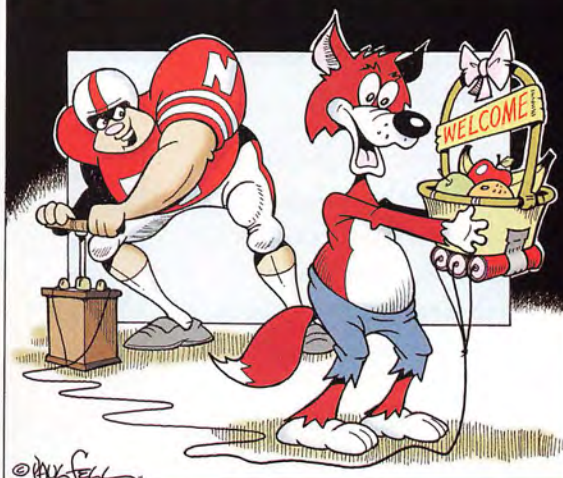


Craig Broyhill of Dakota City, Neb., gets a better view with his binoculars from the west stands.

NEBRASKA 49, FLORIDA ATLANTIC 3

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. ARKANSAS STATE



SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
RED WOLVES RECEIVE EXPLOSIVE WELCOME ON THEIR FIRST VISIT TO MEMORIAL STADIUM!



QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock
(6-1/6-1)



Mike Babcock
(4-3/4-3)



Sean Callahan
(3-4/3-4)



John Talman
(4-3/4-3)



Matt Davison
(3-4/3-4)

(Season/Week)	Aaron Babcock (6-1/6-1)	Mike Babcock (4-3/4-3)	Sean Callahan (3-4/3-4)	John Talman (4-3/4-3)	Matt Davison (3-4/3-4)
Arkansas State at Nebraska	NU 42-17	NU 45-10	NU 41-17	NU 41-14	NU 45-10
Iowa at Iowa State	IOWA 21-17	IOWA 21-15	IOWA 24-20	IOWA 28-24	IOWA 17-16
Kansas at UTEP	KU 35-10	KU 38-21	KU 52-17	KU 49-10	KU 41-14
Bowling Green at Missouri	MU 49-12	MU 48-7	MU 45-20	MU 52-13	MU 42-11
Notre Dame at Michigan	ND 28-21	ND 28-21	ND 38-34	ND 42-38	ND 31-24
USC at Ohio State	USC 35-24	USC 35-21	USC 37-23	USC 35-21	USC 31-18
Syracuse at Penn State	PSU 35-10	PSU 42-14	PSU 38-17	PSU 38-10	PSU 42-6
UCLA at Tennessee	UT 24-21	UT 31-13	UT 41-31	UT 31-24	UT 34-21

Leonard a dual threat at helm for Red Wolves



BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

ARKANSAS STATE quarterback Corey Leonard makes no bones about the fact he originally wanted to play football for his home-state school, Louisiana State.

Leonard, a native of Covington, La., was actually recruited by the Tigers – as a safety.

His ultimate decision to play quarterback at Arkansas State has turned out very well.

For one thing, the 6-foot-1, 205-pound senior already has a bachelor's degree in finance. What's more, he entered this season poised to break nearly every school passing record. Last season, he threw for 2,347 yards while adding 516 yards on the ground for a team that finished 6-6 overall and 4-3 in the Sun Belt Conference.

Leonard operates an attack that includes zone read, power running and play-action passing. The Red Wolves this season returned their three leading rushers from 2008 and top two receivers.

Of course, Leonard leads the pack.

"Obviously he creates a lot for us on the run," Arkansas State coach Steve Roberts said last season. "We have some designed runs for him, but he also creates off the scramble, picking up first downs either running the football or finding open receivers, and he also has a live arm.

"He does a great job in leading our football team. He's a very smart young man, having already earned his degree."

Said Matt Roberson, of the Jonesboro (Ark.) Sun newspaper: "Versatility is what makes Leonard dangerous. He's a dual-threat quarterback that keeps defenses honest or makes them pay."

In 2007, Leonard posted school season



REGGIE ARNOLD

records for total offense (2,782 yards) and touchdown passes (16) while throwing for the third-most passing yards in school history (2,235). He added 547 rushing yards and five touchdowns on the ground, making him accountable for 21 total touchdowns, and finished the year ranked 40th in the nation in total offense.

NOTES

-- Running back Reggie Arnold (pictured) entered this season with the nation's third-highest rushing total (3,210 yards) among active players after running for more than 1,000 yards in each of his first three seasons with the Red Wolves. Defensively, ASU is led by 6-5, 285-pound end Alex Carrington, the 2008 Sun Belt defensive player of the year. He ended last season ranked seventh nationally in tackles for loss with 19.

-- Arkansas State probably won't be intimidated by the big-time college game atmosphere at Memorial Stadium. The Red Wolves in 2007 pushed then-No. 4

Texas before losing 17-9 in Austin. Last season, ASU upset Texas A&M 18-14 at College Station. The Red Wolves also have played at Tennessee and Alabama in recent seasons.

-- Arkansas State has been bowl eligible three of the past four years.

ARKANSAS STATE QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Steve Roberts (37-47 in 7th year at ASU; 84-82 overall)

Enrollment: 11,011

Colors: Scarlet and Black

2008 record: 6-6 (4-3 Sun Belt)

2009 SCHEDULE

9/5	Mississippi State
9/12	at Nebraska
9/26	Troy
10/3	at Iowa
10/13	at ULM
10/24	Florida International
10/31	at Louisville
11/7	Louisiana-Lafayette
11/14	at Florida Atlantic
11/21	at Middle Tennessee State
11/28	North Texas
12/3	at Western Kentucky

ARKANSAS STATE ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
1	Leonard, Corey	QB	6-1	207	RSr.
11	Butterfield, Phillip	QB	6-2	205	Fr.
15	Sullivan, Neely	QB	6-0	193	RSr.
16	Aplin, Ryan	QB	6-1	213	RFr.
18	Smith, Andre	QB	6-1	213	RFr.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
60	Padrta, Dominic	OL	6-4	312	RSr.
61	Hilton, Drew	OL	6-3	302	RJR.
62	Johnson, Brandon	OL	6-4	274	RSr.
65	Allen, Eric	OL	6-0	300	RFr.
67	Prater, Kiano	OL	6-3	292	RSr.
68	Louis, Alfred	OL	6-3	306	RJR.
70	Moore, Delano	OL	6-3	306	RSr.
71	Etu, Sifa	OL	6-1	304	Jr.
72	Newton, Derek	OL	6-5	313	Sr.
73	Castilaw, Tom	OL	6-3	297	RJR.
74	Evans, Brian	OL	6-5	308	RFr.
76	Barnes, Tyler	OL	6-3	293	RFr.
77	Holligan, Tyson	OL	6-2	336	RJR.
	Campbell, Jake	OL	6-6	310	Fr.
	Carney, Justin	OL	6-6	290	Fr.
	Mitchell, Cliff	OL	6-4	270	Fr.
	O'Quinn, Nick	OL	6-2	265	Fr.
	Tolbert, Chris	OL	6-5	280	Fr.
57	Outlaw, Trey	DS	6-0	213	RSr.
84	Gaston, Adam	DS	5-9	218	Jr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
2	Arnold, Reggie	RB	5-9	219	RSr.
22	Lawson, Derek	RB	5-11	216	RSr.
35	Dunn, Tim	RB	5-10	190	RFr.
38	Jones, Don	RB	5-10	197	RJR.
42	Blake, Jeff	FB	5-10	239	Jr.
43	Robertson, Jermaine	FB	5-11	230	RSr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
80	Gillott, Trevor	TE	6-2	218	RSr.
82	Schoemehl, Justin	TE	6-3	230	RFr.
85	Murry, Kedric	TE	6-3	265	RFr.
87	Jordan, J.T.	TE	6-1	274	RSr.
8	Henderson, Lucious	WR	5-11	177	Jr.
9	McLennan, Jahbari	WR	5-11	188	Sr.
10	Robinson, Anthony	WR	5-8	169	Jr.
14	Thompkins, Brandon	WR	5-9	180	Sr.
17	Muse, Allen	WR	6-4	211	Fr.
20	McCants, Carlos	WR	5-11	175	Fr.
24	Clements, Taylor	WR	5-10	183	Sr.
27	Stockemer, Taylor	WR	6-4	195	RFr.
81	White, Jonathan	WR	5-11	188	RJR.
88	Burk, T.J.	WR	6-2	189	RSr.
	Austin, Shederick	WR	5-9	163	RFr.
	Hawkins, Jackie	WR	5-5	156	RFr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
54	Wakwe, Stanley	DE	6-1	246	Sr.
91	Starson, Timothy	DE	6-5	240	RFr.
96	Gibson, Jeremy	DE	6-5	260	RSr.
98	Carrington, Alex	DE	6-5	284	RSr.
	Dunaway, Darius	DE	6-5	220	Fr.
	Green, Julian	DE	6-6	239	RFr.
	Pruitt, Tim	DE	5-8	160	Fr.
79	McCall, Gregory	DL	5-11	297	So.
90	Hall, Bryan	DL	6-1	284	RJR.
93	Porter, Stanley	DL	6-3	259	Jr.
99	Mays, Khari	DL	6-2	288	RSr.
	Carrethers, Ryan	DL	6-0	300	Fr.
	Taylor, Austin	DL	6-3	270	Fr.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
1	Mingo, Cordarious	DB	5-11	182	Sr.
2	Smith, Greg	DB	5-8	178	Jr.
3	Williams, Marquette	DB	5-11	210	RJR.
13	Walker, Daylan	DB	5-9	177	RSr.
17	Wilcots, Keith	DB	5-9	177	Jr.
19	Moody, Walter	DB	5-11	178	Jr.
21	McCray, Kelcie	DB	6-2	190	RSr.
26	Jennings, M.D.	DB	6-0	172	RJR.
28	Blake, Byron	DB	6-2	205	Fr.
29	Brown, Marcus	DB	6-1	186	RSr.
32	Kilcrease, Jaquan	DB	6-2	199	RSr.
37	Bates, Graham	DB	6-0	183	So.
39	Van Dolah, Evan	DB	6-2	213	RSr.
40	Shepard, Isaiah	DB	5-11	214	Jr.
	Holmes, Tausean	DB	5-9	175	Fr.
	Jones, Julian	DB	5-11	175	Fr.
	Lorigan, Cole	DB	5-10	161	RFr.
	Scales, Chaz	DB	5-8	160	Fr.
	Victorian, Jonathan	DB	6-0	176	So.

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
5	McKinnon, Javon	LB	6-0	236	RJR.
7	Hardy, Greg	LB	6-0	246	Sr.
23	Davis, Demario	LB	6-3	231	RSr.
30	Adams, Michael	LB	6-1	245	RSr.
34	Byrd, Najel	LB	5-11	215	Jr.
41	Albright, LeAngelo	LB	5-11	195	Fr.
44	Prater, Cody	LB	6-0	222	RFr.
46	Glover, Darius	LB	6-1	220	RJR.
50	Herrold, Nathan	LB	6-2	234	RFr.
51	Maxfield, Sean	LB	5-11	240	RFr.
52	Brown, Elroy	LB	6-0	232	RSr.
53	Nelms, Nick	LB	5-11	215	Fr.
92	Woods, Dorvus	LB	6-3	261	RSr.
	Robertson, Justin	LB	6-2	230	So.

#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
36	Parker, Brandon	K	6-0	176	RFr.
83	Wilbourn, Ryan	K	5-10	157	So.
89	Arauco, Josh	K	5-9	218	RSr.
47	Brooks, Bray	P	5-11	183	RFr.

NEBRASKA ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
17	Green, Cody	QB	6-4	215	Fr.
12	Kellogg Jr., Ron	QB	6-1	210	Fr.
5	Lee, Zac	QB	6-2	210	Jr.
3	Martinez, Taylor	QB	6-1	185	Fr.
7	Spano, Kody	QB	6-2	215	RFr.
15	Washington, Latravis	QB	6-3	225	Jr.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
70	Ash, Nick	OL	6-5	260	Fr.
66	Barrett, Cruz	OL	6-4	310	Jr.
72	Burkes, Jalvorio	OL	6-5	295	Jr.
58	Caputo, Mike	OL	6-1	275	So.
51	Chapek, Brandon	OL	6-5	320	Fr.
77	Choi, Seung Hoon	OL	6-2	295	RFr.
62	Christensen, Andy	OL	6-3	310	Sr.
71	Coffey, Jesse	OL	6-7	290	Fr.
74	Henry, Ricky	OL	6-4	300	Jr.
67	Hickman, Jacob	OL	6-4	295	Sr.
73	Jones, D.J.	OL	6-5	315	Jr.
52	Jones, Dwight	OL	6-4	240	Fr.
78	Jones, Marcel	OL	6-7	310	So.
75	Lingenfelter, Luke	OL	6-4	255	So.
63	Meyer, Derek	OL	6-5	315	Sr.
69	Nickens, Brodrick	OL	6-5	285	Fr.
76	Qvale, Brent	OL	6-7	335	Fr.
57	Sirles, Jeremiah	OL	6-6	280	Fr.
65	Smith, Mike	OL	6-6	290	Jr.
79	Thompson, Brandon	OL	6-6	300	RFr.
59	Thorson, Brian	OL	6-3	290	RFr.
50	Toailoa, Quentin	OL	6-4	300	RFr.
68	Williams, Keith	OL	6-5	320	Jr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
30	Hays, Mike	FB	6-1	240	So.
48	Legate, Tyler	FB	5-10	225	RFr.
37	Thomsen, Kevin	FB	6-2	235	So.
10	Helu Jr., Roy	IB	6-0	215	Jr.
28	Jones, Austin	IB	5-10	210	So.
29	Okafor, Collins	IB	6-1	225	RFr.
14	Ward, Lester	IB	6-3	215	RFr.
22	Burkhead, Rex	RB	5-11	200	Fr.
22	Makovicika, Jordan	RB	5-10	195	RFr.
27	Robinson, Dontray	RB	6-1	215	Fr.
34	Wallace, Jeremy	RB	6-1	235	RFr.
31	Zimmerer, C.J.	RB	6-0	215	Fr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
2	Bell, Antonio	WR	6-2	180	Fr.
1	Brooks, Chris	WR	6-2	215	Sr.
82	Cammack, Wes	WR	5-11	200	Sr.
42	Clark, Tyson	WR	6-4	185	Fr.
6	Cooper, Khiry	WR	6-2	195	RFr.
87	Dixon, Taylor	WR	5-11	190	RFr.
35	Failla, Nick	WR	5-10	180	Fr.
11	Gilleylen, Curenski	WR	6-0	220	So.
8	Henry, Will	WR	6-5	215	Jr.
18	Holt, Menelik	WR	6-4	220	Sr.
85	Hyland, KC	WR	6-6	205	RFr.
4	Kildow, Ty	WR	5-7	165	Fr.
84	Kinnie, Brandon	WR	6-3	215	So.
9	Lester, Ben	WR	5-10	170	So.
26	Marlowe, Tim	WR	5-10	175	RFr.
32	Mendoza, Marcus	WR	5-10	185	So.
21	Osborne, Steven	WR	6-4	195	RFr.
24	Paul, Niles	WR	6-1	215	Jr.
16	Watson, Adam	WR	6-0	195	Jr.
91	Barry, Robert	TE	6-8	220	Fr.
83	Bechtold, Damon	TE	6-4	235	RFr.

81	Cotton, Ben	TE	6-6	240	RFr.
80	Hill, Ryan	TE	6-3	250	So.
89	Kerr, J.T.	TE	6-4	230	Fr.
41	Long, Jake	TE	6-4	230	Fr.
88	Martin, Jay	TE	6-2	225	So.
86	McClure, Mychael	TE	6-5	235	RFr.
44	McNeill, Mike	TE	6-4	240	Jr.
25	Reed, Kyler	TE	6-3	225	RFr.
47	Wells, Brett	TE	6-4	200	Fr.
49	Young, Dreu	TE	6-4	245	Jr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
95	Allen, Pierre	DE	6-5	265	Jr.
70	Anderson, Kenny	DE	6-2	240	RFr.
9	Ankrah, Jason	DE	6-4	250	Fr.
92	Fahie, Tyrone	DE	6-3	255	Jr.
91	Glassman, Dan	DE	6-4	250	Jr.
80	Harvey, David	DE	6-4	275	Sr.
81	Long, Spencer	DE	6-4	250	Fr.
65	McDermott, Colin	DE	6-2	240	RFr.
66	McDermott, Conor	DE	6-2	240	RFr.
34	Meredith, Cameron	DE	6-4	260	RFr.
99	Turner, Barry	DE	6-3	265	Sr.
98	Williams, Josh	DE	6-4	245	RFr.
47	Yancy, William	DE	6-4	245	So.
58	Jackson, Justin	DL	6-3	270	RFr.
78	Kanne, Colin	DL	6-4	260	Fr.
62	Pensick, Cole	DL	6-2	260	Fr.
53	Randle, Thaddeus	DL	6-1	255	Fr.
94	Crick, Jared	DT	6-6	285	So.
85	Klingelhoefer, Faron	DT	6-2	255	RFr.
63	Martin, Ben	DT	6-4	260	Jr.
68	Molek, Josh	DT	6-3	245	RFr.
90	Moore, Terrence	DT	6-3	285	So.
55	Steinkuhler, Baker	DT	6-6	295	RFr.
93	Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	300	Sr.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
21	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-1	200	Jr.
39	Blatchford, Justin	CB	6-1	195	RFr.
14	Blue, Anthony	CB	5-10	185	So.
31	Dean, Jase	CB	6-0	185	RFr.
15	Dennard, Alfonso	CB	5-10	190	So.
7	Gomes, Dejon	CB	6-0	190	Jr.
23	Thorell, Lance	CB	6-1	195	So.
5	West, Anthony	CB	6-0	205	Jr.
11	Green, Andrew	DB	6-0	180	Fr.
2	Middleton, Lazarri	DB	6-1	190	Fr.
16	Richards, Will	DB	5-11	185	Fr.
10	Washington, Dijon	DB	6-0	175	Fr.
92	Mangieri, P.J.	LS	6-4	245	Fr.
67	Meginnis, Sam	LS/LB	6-2	220	RFr.
4	Asante, Larry	S	6-1	215	Sr.
8	Cassidy, Austin	S	6-1	210	So.
32	Ebke, Jim	S	6-0	215	So.
28	Hagg, Eric	S	6-2	205	Jr.
29	Jameson, Seth	S	6-1	180	Fr.
43	Moravec, Brent	S	6-0	185	RFr.
33	O'Hanlon, Matt	S	5-11	200	Sr.
12	Osborne, Courtney	S	6-3	185	RFr.
13	Smith, P.J.	S	6-2	205	RFr.
3	Thenarse, Rickey	S	6-0	205	Sr.

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
38	Camarata, Joseph	LB	5-10	225	RFr.
51	Compton, Will	LB	6-2	220	RFr.
52	Dillard, Phillip	LB	6-1	240	Sr.
42	Fisher, Sean	LB	6-6	230	RFr.
41	Grove, Thomas	LB	6-2	225	Jr.
35	Holt, Matt	LB	6-0	200	So.
57	Hron, Mitch	LB	6-2	220	Fr.
54	Koehler, Colton	LB	6-1	230	Sr.
44	Kreikemeier, Micah	LB	6-3	215	RFr.
40	Lawrence, Blake	LB	6-3	220	Jr.
37	Lewis, Tyrone	LB	6-2	195	Fr.
49	Manninger, Matt	LB	6-1	220	RFr.
46	Martin, Eric	LB	6-2	215	Fr.
36	May, Mathew	LB	6-1	210	So.
56	Paulsen, Devin	LB	6-2	210	Fr.
59	Starkebaum, Colby	LB	6-1	215	Fr.
30	Stoddard, Graham	LB	6-2	225	RFr.
45	Whaley, Alonzo	LB	6-1	225	RFr.
48	Williams, Chris	LB	6-0	230	Fr.
93	Kuhl, Adam	LS	6-2	255	Fr.

K eith Williams is easily one of Nebraska's most imposing players.

At 6-foot-5 and 315 pounds, he's the type of player a coach just might ask to step off the team bus first, as a way to intimidate.

"I mean, he's as strong as an ox," Husker starting center Jacob Hickman said of Williams, the team's starting left guard.

"He's a real powerful guy," added Nebraska offensive line coach Barney Cotton. "Plus, he and (left tackle) Mike Smith and 'Hick' (Hickman) have played together a long time, so there's continuity there. That helps Keith. He also understands what we're doing offensively.

"And he's become more physical over time. We'd like to have him be more physical all of the time. He's not a finished

"He has a different animal to deal with this year because he's the guy being chased," Cotton said. "He's reacting OK. But once that mindset changes, you want to make sure that hunger is still there. That's why it's so important to have some depth where there's always some guys pushing hard behind (starters). You want the guys in front to never be comfortable. They better be looking over their shoulders, thinking, 'I'm keeping this job.' "

Seniors Andy Christensen and Derek Meyer were among those vying for playing time as back-ups at the guard positions during pre-season camp. But it'll be awfully difficult for anyone to supplant Williams, who last season was part of a line that helped Nebraska score at least 30 points 10 times. The Huskers finished 12th nationally in total offense at 450.8 yards per game.

THE INTIMIDATOR

STANDING 6-5 AND 315 POUNDS, KEITH WILLIAMS LOOKS THE PART

product by any stretch of the imagination. But mentally, he's a sharp guy. He has pretty good footwork for the most part. And he works well between two guys in pass protection. He plays with his eyes, sees blitzes."

How does a coach teach an offensive lineman to be more physical?

"Part of it has to come from me because you're setting the philosophy and setting the tone," Cotton said. "The other way to become more physical is to have a guy breathing down his neck."

In that regard, things have changed this season for Williams. He no longer is chasing a starting job. He's pretty much entrenched as a starter.

A native of Florissant, Mo. — a second-ring suburb of St. Louis — Williams began last season as then-senior Mike Huff's back-up before taking over as starter in the fifth game, the Huskers' Big 12 opener against Missouri.

Williams has never looked back.

The offensive line's prowess fueled a running game that averaged 210 rushing yards in the final six regular-season games, including a 340-yard effort at Kansas State — Nebraska's most rushing yards in a Big 12 game in six years. The line also provided protection for senior quarterback Joe Ganz, who established school records for passing yards, total offense and completion percentage.

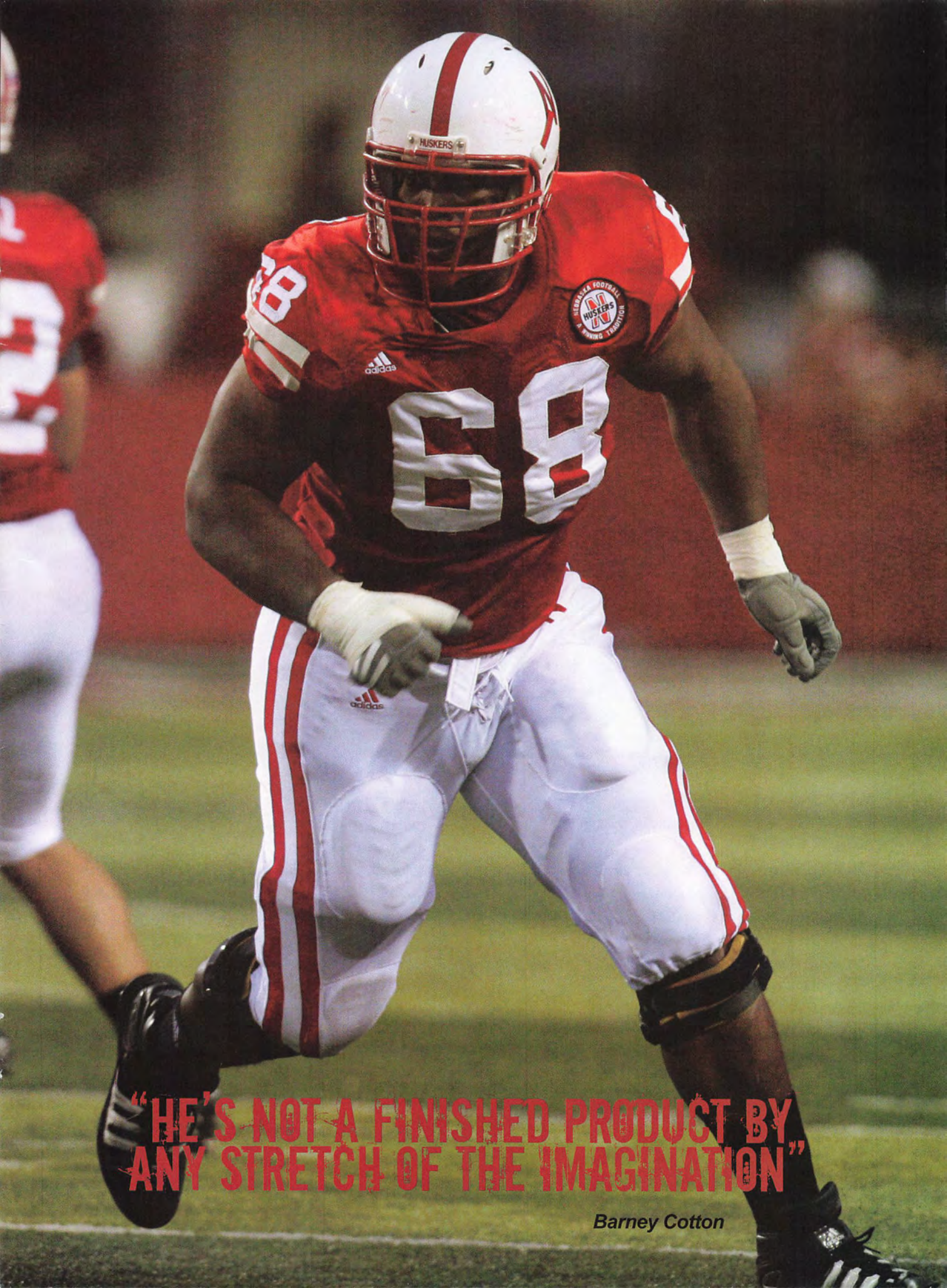
"Last year we felt like Keith was one of our best linemen at the end of the season," Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said. "He started playing at a pretty high level, and I haven't seen any dip in his performance. As we go down into our season, we'll see how much he's improved."

Watson mostly wants to see Williams maintain a high level at all times.

"It's just consistency, down after down after down after down," said Watson. "The other area probably would be pass protection. But he's gotten a lot better at that.

In fact, that's the biggest improvement I've

BY STEVEN M. SIPLE



**"HE'S NOT A FINISHED PRODUCT BY
ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION"**

Barney Cotton



seen.”

Watson expresses confidence about the offensive line in general.

“Jacob Hickman’s one of the best centers in the Big 12,” Watson said. “He’s a heck of a football player. And I think Mike Smith is a heck of a football player. Keith Williams is definitely a good player. I feel really good about our starters. I love what Ricky Henry’s doing (at right guard) and the way Andy Christensen has responded with his level of play.

“They’re tough. They have things to learn, though.”

Hickman, a senior, is the most experienced player on offense. He has 23 career starts, including all 13 games at center last season. Smith, a junior, started all but one game at left tackle last season. Henry, who sat out last

season after transferring, is highly regarded for his tenacity.

Meantime, sophomore Marcel Jones and junior D.J. Jones are the prominent figures at right tackle.

This much is certain: Williams is the offensive lineman most likely to crack jokes in the huddle and in team meeting rooms.

“He’s just a big, goofy guy,” Hickman said. “He always has something to say. He drives the coaches a little crazy at times. He always says something under his breath . . . It gives me a good laugh, but I think the coaches want to kill him sometimes.”

If nothing else, Williams helps keep things loose in the dog days of pre-season drills.

When it’s game time, Williams often “gets riled up” in the heat of action, said Hickman, especially if opposing players are talking smack.

“That’ll just push him to another level.



**“HE’S AS
STRONG AS
AN OX.”**

JACOB HICKMAN

Once he starts getting into them, he might run his lips a little, but not too bad. The best thing about Keith is, if we have a big play or something, I'm getting hit in the back of the head. He celebrates more than anybody else."

Hickman clearly enjoys playing next to Williams, particularly when Williams joins him in double-teaming an opposing lineman.

"If there's any given time when Keith doesn't have someone to block, I feel sorry for the guy on me," Hickman said. "He comes in and packs a wallop. And he knows what he's doing, too. He's one of those guys that I don't have to say a word to. I just look over and kind of give him a nod, and he's like, 'OK, we're doing it.'"

In practice, Williams typically lines up on the opposite side of the line from All-America defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh. On those occasions when they do square off, Hickman said, it's quite a battle.

"It's a battle of the titans when Suh goes over to that side," Hickman said. "He's been doing a little more lately because he wants to go head-to-head with the big guy (Williams). I think it's great for both of them."

Indeed, it should keep Williams from feeling too comfortable in his starting role.



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Huskers look to coasts for RBs

BY RICK SHAW

Despite the recent dismissal of **QUENTIN CASTILLE** from the Husker roster, it's still not a given that the Nebraska coaching staff will sign a running back in the 2010 recruiting class.

The Big Red running back corps still includes six underclassmen (and no seniors). In addition, highly touted junior running back prospect **AARON GREEN** of San Antonio (brother of current Husker cornerback Andrew Green) is showing a high level of early interest in Nebraska. Green will likely be ranked among the top three backs in the country for the class of 2010.

Given those circumstances, coach **BO PELINI** and his staff are being pretty picky about whom they recruit at the position this year. They do, however, have their eyes on a few prospects from California and Florida.

GIOVANNI BERNARD, a 5-foot-9, 198-pound ball carrier from Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas has scholarship offers from some of the top programs in the country, including Alabama, Florida, Florida State, Miami, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Oklahoma and Tennessee. He's already planning fall trips to Notre Dame, Tennessee and Oregon State. Will the Huskers get a visit?

"It's a possibility," Bernard said. "It will probably be after the season. I was originally planning to go to their game against FAU on Sept. 5. Something came



AARON GREEN

up though. I'll try to take Nebraska after the season if everything goes good.

"Coach (**TIM BECK**) told me a lot of stuff I didn't know about them. They are something like No. 2 in college football history in terms of all-time wins. I don't know much about their past, but I'm more concerned about their future and how I would impact that. From talking to Coach Beck, I think the future looks bright there."

Bernard, rated the nation's No. 14 running back (four stars) by Rivals.com, rushed for 1,528 yards (9.6 yards per carry) and 18 touchdowns as a junior.

Another runner from the Sunshine State, **CORVIN LAMB** (5-9, 191) of Northwestern High School in Miami, has shown his abilities more as a return

specialist over the past couple of seasons. Boasting 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash, he set a Dade County record as a junior by returning six consecutive kicks for touchdowns.

Though he saw limited carries out of the backfield in 2008, that hasn't stopped a number of schools from putting the full-court press on him for his abilities as a rusher. Louisiana State, Louisville, Michigan, Nebraska, Michigan State and West Virginia are among the schools extending tenders.

Rated among the top 100 prospects in the state (three stars) by Rivals, Lamb said he will definitely visit both Ole Miss and LSU during the season. He admitted, however, that he's also looking hard at a possible trip to Lincoln.

"I always liked Nebraska when I was young," Lamb said. "Nebraska was the only team I saw give Miami a dogfight back when the Hurricanes won the national championship a few years back. They showed a lot of heart in that game and made me a fan. I'm definitely considering a visit there."

On the other coast, **JAMES MCCONICO** (6-0, 200) of Compton (Calif.), made the most of his opportunities as a junior. He earned first-team all-league honors after rushing for 1,234 yards and 14 touchdowns while averaging an eye-popping 19.9 yards per carry.



Not surprisingly, the talented rusher has picked up scholarship offers from a number of schools, including Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon and Washington. Though he holds no favorites at this time, he admitted that he's impressed with the tradition in Lincoln.

"I stay in contact with Coach (**MARVIN SANDERS** and Coach (**TIM BECK**) of Nebraska," McConico said. "They are a decent school. They've won championships and they get sellout crowds. They do a lot of amazing things.

"The plan is to take all five of my visits. I probably won't make my decision until February."

McConico is rated among the top 100 players in California (three stars) by Rivals.com.

Another back out of California, **DEONTAE COOPER** (6-0, 205) holds double-digit offers from schools including Arizona, Arizona State, Stanford, Washington, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah and others. With a September visit to Washington already scheduled and trips to both Arizona State and Cal currently in the works, Cooper said there is still a good chance that he makes it to Lincoln for a visit.

"I'm thinking about taking a visit to Nebraska," Cooper said. "What I like about them is that it's a football town up there, and as an offense, they like to pound the ball.

"I have no problem leaving home for school. If I'm planning on playing football for a while, I better get used to being away. I figure I might as well start now."

Cooper, rated the nation's No. 17 running back (four stars) by Rivals, rushed for 2,902 yards (10.6 yards per carry) and 42 touchdowns as a junior.

The Huskers have a few good running back options for the 2010 recruiting class. However, with a number of young backs already in the system and some good prospects for the class of 2011, the Big Red can certainly afford to be selective.



IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Waverly athlete **TYLER EVANS** is considered one of the top prospects in the state of Nebraska for the class of 2010. The Husker commit has the ability to play either wide receiver or defensive back at the next level. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Evans in this week's in-state recruiting spotlight.

CALLAHAN: You've always been looked at as a great basketball player; when did you realize football was your realistic ticket to the next level? **EVANS:** I've always liked to play both basketball and football, but I guess I've always had the football mentality. After my sophomore year, the first time I started varsity football, that's when I decided this is what I really want to do.

CALLAHAN: How fun was it for you playing for the Nebraska Bison basketball program the last three summers? **EVANS:** That's one of my favorite experiences I've had in high school. It's really fun traveling around with all the guys that are kind of like you and have the same work ethic and you all kind of like the same things. It was really fun.

CALLAHAN: What's the best place you visited this summer with the Bison team? **EVANS:** I think the coolest place we visited was L.A. I love the ocean and the beach, so that was pretty cool.

CALLAHAN: Any crazy stories from the road? **EVANS:** Swimming in the ocean was pretty cool. We saw some dolphins that were pretty close to us. We found some surf boards on the beach and me and Trevor Menke from Beatrice and Tobin Reinwald from Lincoln High just took them and tried to surf. It was pretty fun, but we were terrible. It was just fun to try.

CALLAHAN: What's one show you can't miss on television? **EVANS:** I really like watching "House." I watch the reruns a lot on TNT.

CALLAHAN: Favorite PS3 or Xbox video game? **EVANS:** NCAA Football 2010.

CALLAHAN: Who's your team in the game? **EVANS:** It's always Nebraska. I jack up the stats, though, a little bit to help me out.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite pregame warm-up song that gets you fired up? **EVANS:** "It's a Fight," by Three 6 Mafia.

CALLAHAN: Lastly, if you could have dinner with any three famous people in the world, who it would they be and why? **EVANS:** Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan and Randy Moss. Those are my three favorite players from growing up, and I like the Vikings, and when Randy Moss was there he was my favorite player. I love the (Chicago) Bulls, too, and Tiger Woods is just an all-around sweet guy. Those three would be pretty cool.

Recruiting Notebook

NU loses a wideout

by Sean Stevens

Nebraska is looking to sign one to two wide receivers in the 2010 recruiting class. In mid-May **KEESTON TERRY** of Blue Springs, Mo., became the first, and his decision seemed to be solidified by the subsequent pledge of Ballwin, Mo., quarterback **TYLER GABBERT** (6-0/190/4-stars) in early June. Terry and Gabbert are friends, and it was believed that Gabbert would be the glue to keep Terry in Lincoln. It wasn't to be, however.

"I de-committed from Nebraska," Terry said in late July. "After that I thought about it and decided I wanted to commit to Kansas. I felt comfortable there and knew a lot about them since my parents went there."

Terry's parents attended Kansas, and his father Doug played for the Jayhawks. While Terry's change of mind wasn't entirely surprising, it was disappointing. Top remaining NU targets at receiver include **CURTIS CARTER** (5-10/161/4-stars) of Stonewall, La., **BOBBY SWIGERT** (6-1/175/3-stars) of Louisville, Ohio, and **AUSTIN HILL** (6-3/192/3-stars) of Corona, Calif.

Nebraska will need offensive linemen in 2011, and the Huskers started the recruiting process early when Crete, Neb., center **RYNE REEVES** (6-3/286) accepted a scholarship

offer in early June.

"Well, I've been looking to go to Nebraska, so I thought better sooner than later," Reeves said. "I've always wanted to go there, so that's why I picked Nebraska."

Reeves' high school coach Chuck McGinnis had high praise.

"I really believe if he keeps progressing, the sky is the limit for him," McGinnis said. "He's got excellent feet, and that comes from basketball and track. His pass-pro is excellent, and he understands the game."

Reeves is not the only lineman high on the Huskers' list. Clearwater, Fla., tackle **TYLER MOORE** (6-6/270) could be the top offensive lineman in the nation for 2011, and he's a Husker legacy. His father, **BRIAN MOORE**, played tight end for the Huskers in the early 1980's and his cousin is former NU defensive end **JAY MOORE**.

"Nebraska is in the lead, and the other schools know it," Brian Moore told the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times. "Florida is in it. Ohio State is in it. And even though they haven't offered, Penn State is in it. He can go anywhere he wants, but I'd definitely be happy if he goes to Nebraska. It's a really neat environment up there. They live and breathe Nebraska football. He'll be a celebrity as soon as he walks on campus." **N**

SIDELINES

NU BOUND, EVENTUALLY

The Huskers dipped into the desert for some interior defensive line help for the future. **KENNY MACK**, a 6-foot-3, 260-pound defensive tackle out of Las Vegas (Nev.)

Arbor View announced that he will not attend UNLV this fall as originally planned. He will instead enroll in Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College in the fall with the hope of becoming eligible to compete at Nebraska in 2010.

"There's some NCAA rule that will disable me from going to Nebraska this year," Mack said. "I will play this year (at Fort Scott), and if I become qualified I'll play at Nebraska after that. Coach (Ron) Brown said that my scholarship is already there."

"They're just the school that I want to go to after talking to them and researching them. Plus, I want to get out of town now. I don't want to stay here for college."

Mack, rated a three-star prospect by Rivals, accumulated 53 tackles and one sack as a senior in 2008.

2010 Nebraska Commitment List (5)

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Tyler Evans ★★	ATH	6-2	180	Waverly, Neb.
Tyler Gabbert ★★★★★	QB	6-0	190	Ballwin, Mo.
Mike Moudy ★★★	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo.
Andrew Rodriguez ★★★★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Donovan Vestal ★★	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Nebraska's 2011 class all about family

THE SURGE BEGINS FOR 2011.

As I write this, Sept. 1 has arrived, which means junior prospects can receive their first written scholarship offers in the mail. It also opens the floodgates for personalized recruiting mail, which can begin as well.

Nebraska is in a big position to make the 2011 class a great one.

Why specifically are things looking promising?

Well, here are a few prospects to keep your eyes on over the next few months.

The Huskers are actively pursuing and made an early verbal offer to San Antonio (Texas) Madison junior running back Aaron Green. Green is considered one of the top running backs in the country for the class of 2011 and his brother is Andrew Green – freshman cornerback for Nebraska. To break it down simply, Green has a great relationship with his brother. While it seems likely that he'll take his time with the process, he also has a cousin in Corona (Calif.) Roosevelt wide receiver Austin Hill, who will visit Nebraska this fall for the Oklahoma game.

If Hill commits to Nebraska at some point, Green has said the Huskers will be tough to turn down.

Is that the only promising spot for 2011? Hardly.

The Huskers have secured the commitment of arguably the top in-state prospect for that class in Crete's Ryne Reeves, an offensive lineman.

Nebraska is also in what seems to be a fairly strong lead for junior offensive lineman Tyler Moore, the Husker legacy from Clearwater (Fla.) Countryside. On Sept. 1, the Husker offer arrived for Moore, and his father made it clear that Nebraska is still the team to beat. Moore's father, Brian Moore, and his cousin – Jay Moore – both played for the Huskers. Expect something to happen with him at the earliest in terms of a commitment, after his junior season.

Things continue to look bright with other 2011 Nebraska targets.

The Huskers are in a great position and in the thick of things with another prospect that has a direct Husker connection. Current Husker Kyler Reed's younger brother Dagan Reed also has an offer from the Huskers. Being recruited as an athlete with plenty of position-options at the next level, expect NU to be very much in with Reed, the Overland Park (Kan.) St. Thomas Aquinas prospect, until the end.

St. Louis (Mo.) Chaminade quarterback Christian Suntrup was verbally offered after he completed his Nebraska camp stop this summer. Suntrup is good friends with current 2010 Husker quarterback pledge Tyler Gabbert.

Nebraska has a connection through one assistant coach to Arlington, Texas, wide receiver Miles Onyegbule. Current Nebraska assistant Tim Beck recruited Miles' brother to Kansas when Beck was working in Lawrence. While it looks like a

long shot that Onyegbule wants to venture too far from home, it's again somewhat interesting that the Husker coaches have seemingly more connections than normal to top junior targets.

There are several other targets that either have connections to the Husker program or high interest in the Huskers for 2011. Unfortunately, I don't have all the space to list every one. Plus, by the time I write it I'm guessing another target will pop up. It's moving that quickly for a class that won't sign until a year from this February.

For whatever reason, it's not the current class – 2010 – that everybody seems to be talking about with excitement. That's the norm for this time of year. It's actually the next crop of prospects just entering their junior seasons creating the buzz. That is usually something you see in programs like Texas, which seems to thrive on how early junior prospects committing.

Expect the class of 2011 in Texas to also be a hotbed for the Huskers. There are several top prospects at schools in Dallas and Houston that have been receiving big-time attention from the Nebraska coaching staff. Some of that attention turning into offers shouldn't surprise anyone.

Let's be clear: the 2010 class is important, just as any recruiting class is to the future of the program.

However, with how rosy things are looking for Nebraska in 2011, don't be surprised if that class gets more talk than usual – and a whole lot earlier, as well. **N**

Volleyball

SYDNEY ANDERSON

BY BOB HAMAR

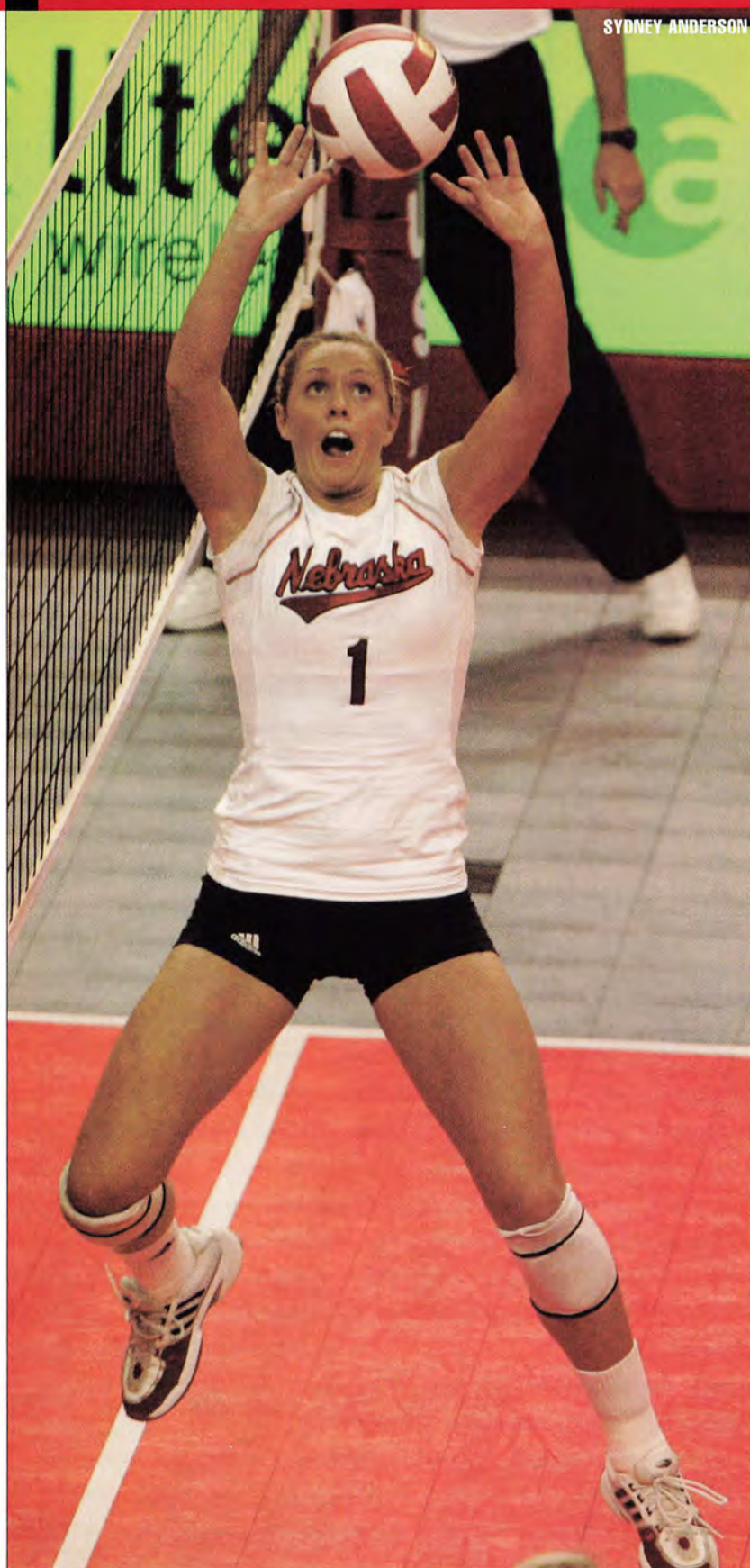
Husker offense changes to meet need for speed

Nebbraska's offense was pretty successful a year ago while finishing second in the Big 12 behind Texas in both hitting percentage and kills. But the Huskers' .272 hitting percentage was a long way from the .347 that Texas put up. So they're hoping a faster offense this season will help them get that percentage back up over .300.

A faster offense is just fine with junior setter Sydney Anderson. "With every set we're doing, we're trying to speed it up a little bit and make it harder for the defense to read," she said. "I love a faster offense. You can find tempo. You can find better rhythm. A lot of hitters know how to hit that better because (with) a high ball you have so much time to make an error, but a fast ball you have to get on it and get on it quick."

Anderson and fellow setters Jessica Yanz and Brigitte Root come in half an hour early for every practice to put in extra time. Anderson said that extra work with assistant coach Lizzy Stemke has helped her more than anything else.

"It all kind of starts with the setter," Anderson said. "Me, Jess and Brigitte have been working all summer long on getting our tempo down. It's just going to take time. It's not



going to happen in one day. It will happen over time."

Nebraska coach John Cook saw the kind of offense he hopes to run last year when the Huskers faced Penn State in the national semi-finals. Cook said the Nittany Lions did a better job of running a fast offense than any team in the nation.

And that fast tempo caused big problems for Penn State opponents.

"You don't have as much time to get two blockers there," Cook said. "You don't have as much time to get in position on defense because everything is set faster, is lower, and those athletes are on the ball quicker, so there's less time to react."

Cook would have liked to have run a faster offense last season, but some of the main players in the system -- such as seniors Jordan Larson and Amanda Gates -- had been in the program for three years and were more comfortable with a different tempo.

Plus Anderson, who played at Utah and sat out a year of college volleyball before transferring to Nebraska, was in her first months with the Husker program.

"Penn State had the same setter for three years," Cook said. "It's like in football running the spread attack. Those guys have to know where everybody is. The quarterback has to know. The longer they do that the better they get at it and run it at a higher efficiency. It's the same in volleyball. It takes a long time to develop it."

Anderson, a second team AVCA All-American last year, didn't arrive on campus until midway through the summer of 2008. However, it didn't take her long to fit in with her new teammates.

"Sydney did an excellent job coming here last summer and helping this team have a great season," Cook said. "That is a testament to her character, her work ethic and the ability she has to build trust

among her teammates. Sydney has the gift to make her teammates better."

Cook is expecting even more from Anderson this season. She's a year older, a year wiser and maybe even more athletic than last season.

"With a year in our strength program, we think she will be a better athlete," Cook said. "And when you combine that with her leadership skills and natural ability, she has a chance to be a great player."

If the offense comes together the way Cook and the Huskers are hoping, it could mean a trip to the final four in Tampa, Fla.

"Last year's girls know what the feeling is and know how much we want to be there again," Anderson said. "We're just trying to get our younger players motivated and giving them that same kind of feeling and desire to go out there and play like we did last year."

HUSKERS RUN DEEP

Injuries and player defections left Cook scrambling for practice players last season. That's not a problem in 2009.

Last year volunteer coaches and ex-players such as Tracy Stalls came to practice just so the Huskers could have an opponent of some kind on the other side of the net.

This year, Cook has 16 healthy players battling for playing time.

"Now we have two teams going at it, and we can swap them back and forth," Cook said. "It's a lot of fun as a coach because everybody is competing and working together and going against each other. We didn't have that situation last year. It was an odd-ball team in a way.

"Now we're developing players. We have players competing. Everybody wants to get to the red side of the court. As a coach you love that because nobody can take a day off. Nobody can take a play off."

GAME OF THE FUTURE

If you wonder what the Huskers will look like in the next few years, look no further than freshman outside hitters Hannah Werth and Gina Mancuso.

Werth and Mancuso, as well as junior Tara Mueller, represent the new breed of players that Cook wants to recruit. Former Husker All-American Jordan Larson was that type of player. Texas, on the other hand, has been recruiting the big outside hitters and subbing for them in the back row.

"I like players who play all the way around," Cook said. "In rally scoring now, you better have skills and be an all-around player. Those are the players we're trying to recruit." **N**

2009 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22	Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28-29	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 28	*vs. Michigan, L, 3-0
Aug. 29	*vs. Minnesota, W, 3-2
Sept. 1	Creighton, W, 3-0
Sept. 4-5	at LSU Tournament
Sept. 4	vs. UL-Lafayette, 11 a.m.
	at LSU, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	vs. Tulane, 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 10-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 10	Virginia, 7 p.m.
Sept. 11	BYU, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13	^UCLA, 2 p.m.
Sept. 16	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Colorado, TBA
Sept. 23	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	Texas, 1 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Kansas, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Oklahoma, TBA
Oct. 28	at Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Iowa State, TBA
Nov. 13	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 11-12	*NCAA Regionals, TBA
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha
	^ at Bob Devaney Sports Center

Basketball

KELSEY GRIFFIN

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Griffin leads program's largest senior class

Kelsey Griffin was still woozy from the anesthesia. She hadn't even begun to think about putting any pressure on her ankle, which had just been surgically repaired for a second time.

Still, Griffin immediately knew she was better. She knew she was right again. She can't explain how or why.

She just knew.

"I know that's crazy," Griffin said, "because I'm doped up and just had holes drilled into my bone."

Griffin maintained those positive vibes while wearing a protective walking boot. When she first removed the boot, she felt physical proof of her initial instinct.

"When I walked, I didn't even have to think about it. There was no pain. Nothing," Griffin said. "Just those few short steps, I was so excited. I knew I was better and I knew I was going to be playing."

The next step for Griffin, a 6-foot-2 senior forward on the Nebraska women's basketball team, is to regain her basketball shape and form. While she's still waiting to be fully cleared to play, Griffin is confident.

"I'm really excited about it, and I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "It's going to be hard. I know it will be hard. It's going to be



tough. But it won't be because of pain. It will be because of getting back into shape for basketball."

Griffin hasn't played since the 2007-08 season, when she averaged 15.3 points and 7.2 rebounds to lead the Huskers to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Last season was supposed to be her senior season. But she injured her ankle in August of 2008 and spent the next 14 weeks trying to recover.

That December, Griffin had surgery to reconstruct her ankle. She sat out the season, using her available redshirt.

Nebraska, playing in a veteran-laden Big 12 Conference, struggled without their biggest veteran, finishing 15-16 overall, and 6-10 in the Big 12.

What's worse, Griffin, who already ranks in five of Nebraska's career top-10 statistical charts, wasn't getting any better.

"I always kind of knew something wasn't right," she said.

To that end, Griffin sought a second and third opinion on her ankle and decided to have a second surgery in May.

"It seemed like the ball wasn't really rolling," Griffin said. "I didn't want it to get to the middle of the summer and all of the sudden I needed a second surgery. I wanted to figure out if I needed one, and if I needed it now.

"After this surgery, everything clicked. It was like all of the pieces finally fell into place."

Nebraska coach Connie Yori is hoping that's the case.

"Not playing basketball for 12 or 13 months and then being expected to play at the same level you were playing at before, I think, will be a challenge for her," Yori said. "We hope we can get Kelsey back. We just don't know at what level we're going to get her back."

With Griffin, the Huskers will play with six seniors – the most in program history, according to Nebraska media relations director Jeff Griesch.

Now, the Huskers will be the veteran team in a conference that loses nearly 50

seniors from last season. Good seniors, too, like Oklahoma twins Courtney and Ashley Paris.

"We do have very high expectations for ourselves," Griffin said. "Coach has really beat it into our heads that a year older doesn't mean a year better. I hope everyone's taking that to heart this summer and really worked on things that Coach has told them."

Griffin has been doing her part by staying in shape. Even that's fun, she said, now that she's able to hike mountains back home in Alaska, where she returned for a week in August.

"I've been going for ocean runs and hiking mountains and doing all this fun stuff back home that I didn't get to do earlier," she said. "It's great."

2009 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 3	Pittsburg State (exh), 7:05 p.m.
Nov. 8	Nebraska-Kearney (exh), 2:05 p.m.
Nov. 13	Davidson, 7:05 p.m.
Nov. 15	at UNLV, TBA
Nov. 19	Idaho State, 7:05 p.m.
Nov. 22	Washington State, 2:05 p.m.
	<i>Saint Mary's Hilton Tournament</i>
Nov. 27	UALR, at Moraga, Calif., TBA
Nov. 28	at Saint Mary's College, TBA
Dec. 3	South Dakota, 7:05 p.m.
Dec. 5	Miami, at Coral Gables, Fla., TBA
Dec. 9	Creighton, 7:05 p.m.
Dec. 13	Northern Illinois, 2:05 p.m.
Dec. 20	LSU, 1:05 p.m.
Dec. 30	Albany, 7:05 p.m.
Jan. 4	at Vermont, TBA
Jan. 9	at Iowa State, TBA
Jan. 12	Texas, 7:05 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Baylor, TBA
Jan. 23	Kansas State, TBA
Jan. 27	at Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Colorado, TBA
Feb. 3	Oklahoma State, 7:05 p.m.
Feb. 6	Texas A&M, TBA
Feb. 10	at Kansas, 7 p.m.
Feb. 13	at Missouri, TBA
Feb. 17	Iowa State, 7:05 p.m.
Feb. 20	Colorado, TBA
Feb. 24	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Feb. 27	Missouri, TBA
Mar. 3	Kansas, 7:05 p.m.
Mar. 6	at Kansas State, TBA
Mar 11-14	at Big 12 Championships
Mar 20-23	NCAA First & Second Rounds
Mar 27-30	NCAA Regionals
Apr 4-6	NCAA Women's Final Four at San Antonio, Texas (Alamodome)

GET WELL SOON

Griffin isn't Nebraska's only key player who's seen little to no basketball activity over the summer. She's among four players on Yori's team who is recovering from injury.

Senior center Nikki Bober, who tore her ACL during last season, had arthroscopic surgery on her other knee in August.

Senior guard Yvonne Turner, Nebraska's second-leading scorer last season, had shoulder surgery after the season and hasn't played all summer. And junior guard Kaitlyn Burke has been sidelined with a foot injury.

"And those are four players we're counting on to play a lot for us," Yori said. "It's just been one of those things. We haven't had a lot of luck in that area, and hopefully, if we get healthy, we can have a really good season."

BALHAM STEPS ASIDE

Chris Balham, a senior on the Nebraska men's basketball team, has accepted a medical exempt scholarship and will spend this season as a student assistant coach.

Balham is unable to play his final season of eligibility because of recurring knee problems. He played in 27 games last season, starting 23, but averaged only 10.1 minutes.

"This was a tough decision for Chris, and it's difficult for him to deal with and will be difficult for our team not having him on the court," Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said. "But Chris met with the doctors and they were honest with him, letting him know how serious the matter is with his knees and how, even though he's taken the summer off from playing, his knees are not getting better. They won't get better, so it's in his best interest to stop playing now and have a chance to be healthy later in life."

Balham graduated in August with a double major in Spanish and international studies and will take graduate level classes on scholarship. He will not count toward Nebraska's NCAA limit of 13 scholarships. **N**

DAVID ADAMS



CROSS COUNTRY Adams makes great strides after redshirt

BY TOMMY DAHLK

In order to gain confidence and experience, the Nebraska men's cross country team's younger runners are typically sent to Omaha to compete in the Creighton/UNO Classic.

The strategy certainly worked for Husker sophomore David Adams last season.

In his first meet as a redshirted freshman, Adams won the invitational. And he carried the momentum throughout the season, eventually winning the team's most-valuable-runner honor.

Did Adams expect this? No, not at all. "I didn't know what to expect heading into that first meet, having not run cross country since high school," Adams said. "Obviously, in college, they are longer races. So it's a whole different ball game, and I really didn't know what to expect. I was just hoping to make the varsity team and improve from there."

Before the season, Adams was just hoping to match the times he posted at York (Neb.) High School. During his senior track season, Adams said he trained too hard at the start of the season. Since basketball had just ended for him, he said he really should have



eased into track.

Eventually, he started to feel pain in his foot, and a stress fracture resulted. So he had no choice but to redshirt his freshman year and could only run off and on for about six months.

The injury turned out to be a blessing in disguise, however.

Usually, freshmen are overwhelmed with balancing school, cross country and the fact they are away from home for the first time.

Since he couldn't compete, Adams said the whole process slowed down for him. He got a chance to see what the practices would be like and plan accordingly. Also, his body matured a lot from high school.

With no curveballs thrown his way and a good health, Adams became

the Huskers' top runner his first year.

During the outdoor track season, he nearly qualified for the conference finals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

For an encore, Adams hopes to help

2009 MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at Creighton/UNO Classic at Omaha, Neb. (Chili Greens), 8 a.m.
Sept. 19	Woody Greeno / Nebraska Invite Lincoln, Neb. (Pioneers Park), 10 a.m.
Oct. 3	Wisconsin Inter-Regional Invitational at Madison, Wisc., 11 a.m.
Oct. 17	Indiana State Pre-Nationals at Terre Haute, Ind., 10 a.m.
Oct. 31	Big 12 Championships at Columbia, Mo., 10 a.m.
Nov. 14	NCAA Midwest Regional at Springfield, Mo., Noon
Nov. 23	NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Ind., 11 a.m.

Big 12 cross country meet, become an All-Big 12 selection, and break the 24-minute mark in the 8-kilometer run.

He said he expects it this year, and the layoff has given him a perfect runner's mindset.

"The big thing for me was a mental approach to running," Adams said. "Being injured, my faith was really tested and I grew a lot spiritually. When I came back to running, it felt like there wasn't as much pressure anymore." **N**

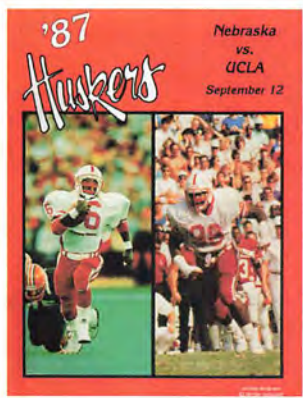
2009 MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY ROSTER

NAME	YR.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
Adams, Jesse	So.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
Brinn, Tommy	Fr.	Otsego, Mich. (Otsego)
Conahan, Matt	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
Doering, Brad	Jr.	Yuba City, Calif. (Yuba City)
Falcon, Peter	Jr.	Bellevue, Neb. (West)
Grieb, Brett	Fr.	York, Neb. (York)
Gulizia, Todd	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
Luebke, Ethan	Sr.	Waco, Neb. (Centennial)
Mitteis, Adam	So.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
Oberle, Anthony	So.	Sioux City, Iowa (Bishop Heelan)
Ronhovde, Jon	So.	Fremont, Neb. (Fremont)
Shipp, Matt	RFr.	Bertrand, Neb. (Bertrand)
Somer, Bryce	Sr.	Yankton, S.D. (Yankton)
Thies, Eric	Jr.	Arlington, Minn. (Sibley East)
Thomas, Mikel	Jr.	Clovis, Calif. (Clovis)
Vidlak, Trevor	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)



GAMES REMEMBERED

Sept. 12, 1987 at Memorial Stadium
(consecutive sellout No. 150)



For the first time in the 52-year history of the Associated Press poll, two of the top three ranked teams were matched at Memorial Stadium. Nebraska was No. 2, UCLA No. 3. The game also featured an early-season Heisman Trophy candidate in Bruins running back Gaston Green.

Cornhusker quarterback Steve Taylor played like the Heisman Trophy candidate, however, completing 10-of-15 passes for 217 yards and a Big Eight record-tying five

touchdowns, just one fewer than he had thrown the entire previous season, as a sophomore starter.

Taylor played despite a sore left shoulder. His passes compensated for a Cornhusker running game described by coach Tom Osborne as "abysmal." Nebraska, which averaged 373.5 yards rushing per game for the season, managed only 117 yards on the ground. The Cornhuskers' leading rusher was third-string I-back Tyreese Knox, who carried four times for 30 yards in the fourth quarter.

Green didn't fare much better against the Blackshirts. Though he scored three short-yardage touchdowns, he was limited to 46 yards on 19 carries, ending a streak of eight games (beginning the previous season) in which he had rushed for 100 or more yards.

UCLA ran 82 plays from scrimmage, 20 more than the Cornhuskers, and defensive tackles Tim Rother, starting in place

JAYHAWK NEMESIS - Kansas knew Craig Johnson's jersey number. It was 30. And to say he had the Jayhawks' number was, well, understating the situation. He was a third-string I-back as a sophomore in 1978, but with Rick Berns and Tim Wurth slowed by injury, he made the most of the opportunity at Lawrence, Kan., rushing for 192 yards and two touchdowns (on only 10 carries) and teaming with quarterback Tim Hager on a 78-yard touchdown pass. As a junior against Kansas, Johnson came off the bench to rush for 138 yards and two touchdowns (on nine carries). And as a senior, getting a rare career start at Lawrence, he rushed for 109 yards and two touchdowns. His career rushing average against the Jayhawks was 12.2 yards per carry, and he scored seven of 19 career touchdowns against them. During his three seasons at Nebraska, Johnson, an Omaha Westside graduate, was "probably the best alternate running back in the country," according to the Cornhusker media guide. Jayhawk fans wouldn't have argued. Oh yes, Nebraska won the three Kansas games in which he played by a combined score of 159-21.

Nebraska 42, UCLA 33

UCLA	7	3	7	16	-	33
Nebraska	0	14	14	14	-	42

(UCLA) Gaston Green 4 run (Alfredo Velasco kick)
(N) Tom Banderas 9 pass Steve Taylor (Chris Drennan kick)
(N) Ken Clark 11 pass Taylor (Drennan kick)
(UCLA) Velasco 23 field goal
(N) Clark 1 run (Drennan kick)
(N) Rod Smith 48 pass Taylor (Drennan kick)
(UCLA) Eric Ball 6 run (Velasco kick)
(N) Todd Millikan 35 pass Taylor (Drennan kick)
(N) Millikan 33 pass Taylor (Drennan kick)
(UCLA) Green 5 run (Green run)
(UCLA) Green 2 run (Green run)

Attendance: 76,313

of an injured Lee Jones, and Neil Smith were on the field for nearly every one of those 82 plays. Linebacker LeRoy Etienne was credited with 13 tackles.

UCLA would drop to No. 13 in the rankings but climb back to No. 5 before a mid-November loss against USC. On the same Saturday, Nebraska, which had inexplicably moved ahead of Oklahoma to No. 1 (after a bye week and a Sooner victory against Missouri) lost to the Sooners 17-7, in what was billed as the "Game of the Century II." Nebraska finished sixth in the AP rankings, UCLA ninth.

Green would finish eighth in voting for the Heisman Trophy.

TOM OSBORNE: "If somebody told me we only ran for 117 yards and lost four fumbles, I'd have said we got whipped by 21 points. We've got a lot of room to improve."

DID YOU KNOW? Troy Aikman, UCLA's junior quarterback, began his collegiate career at Oklahoma. After leading the Sooners to three victories to open the 1985 season, he suffered a broken leg in a 27-14 loss against Miami. Jamelle Holieway stepped in. Oklahoma went on to win the national championship, and Aikman, who was from Henryetta, Okla., transferred.

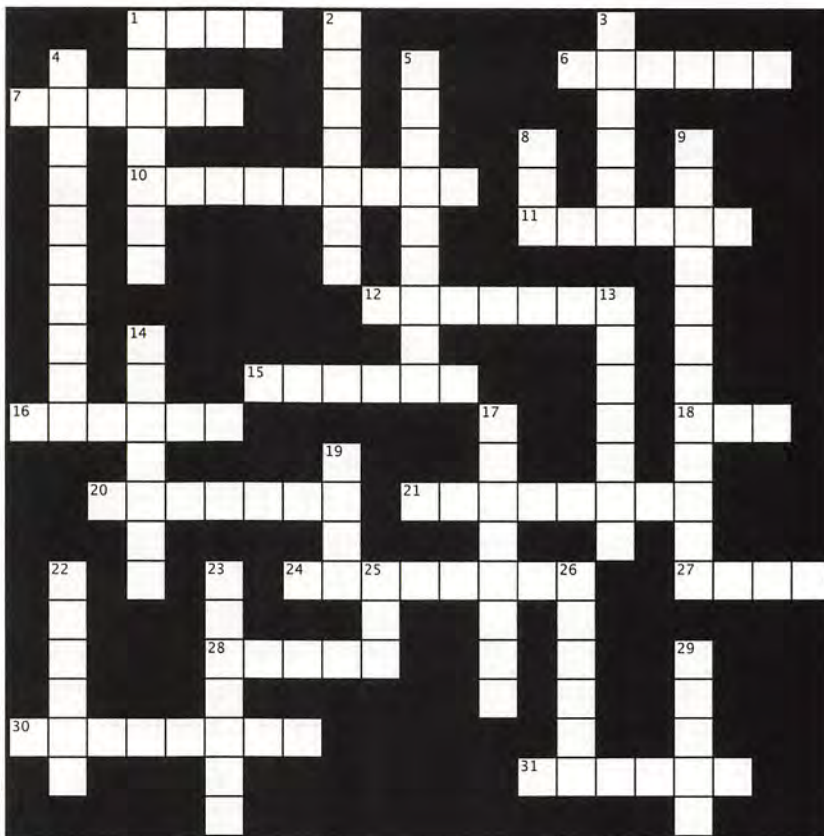
CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. Wears No. 5 (defense)
6. Bo Pelini's college position
7. Nov. 14 opponent
10. Arkansas State nickname
11. Wears No. 90 (special teams)
12. Arkansas State head coach
15. Strength coach
16. Ben Cotton's father
18. Network for NU-Virginia Tech telecast
20. Recruiting coordinator
21. Running back recently dismissed from team
24. Nov. 7 opponent
27. Leading rusher in 2008
28. Wears No. 90 (defense)
30. Pierre Allen's home state
31. Defensive line coach

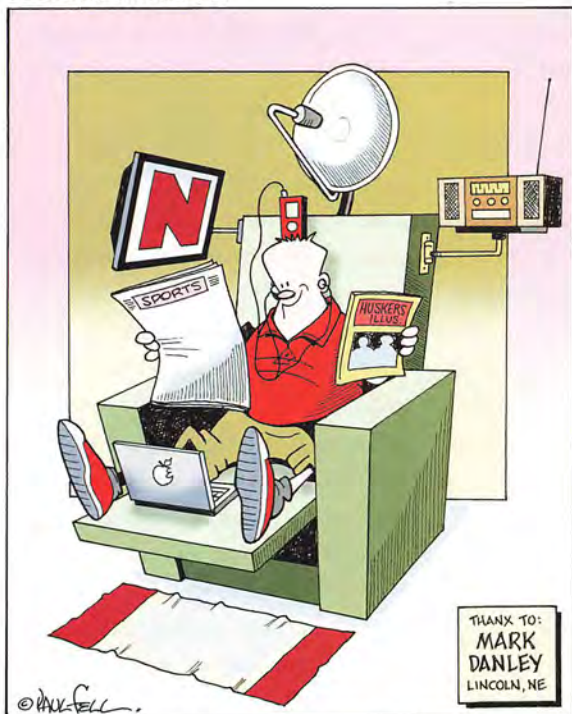
DOWN

1. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
2. Walk-on linebacker recently awarded scholarship
3. Quarterbacks coach
4. Roy Helu's home state
5. Arkansas State campus location
8. Leader in sacks in 2008
9. Sept. 19 opponent
13. Arkansas State's conference
14. Had 6 touchdown catches in 2008
17. Opponent in Big 12 opener
19. Running backs coach
22. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
23. Walk-on wide receiver recently awarded scholarship
25. Wears No. 5 (offense)
26. Leader in solo tackles in 2008



Answers will appear in the Sept. 19 issue

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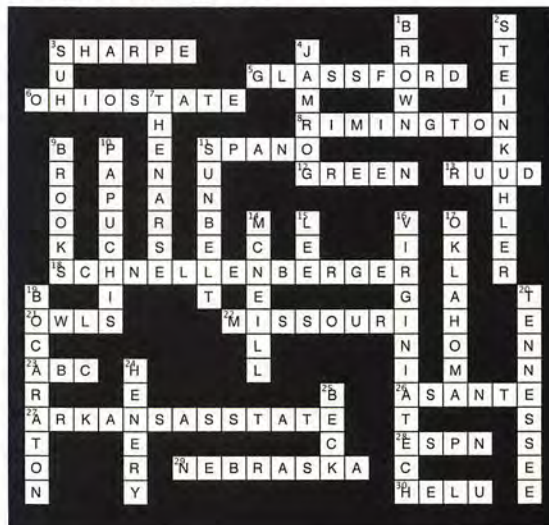
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AUGUST CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Cody green amazing in Husker debut

CUE THE KANYE WEST song (with Young Jeezy) "Amazing," specifically the chorus.

"It's amazin', so amazin', so amazin', so amazin', it's amazin' . . ."

That would have been a good back-drop for Cody Green's first official interview at Nebraska, following the Cornhuskers' 49-3 victory against Florida Atlantic.

Oh yes, crank up the bass, too. It's appropriate, not only to the song but to Green's deep voice. He doesn't sound like a freshman. That's probably the first thing to strike you.

His voice – and his presence. He's 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds, though his presence is a result of more than size. Green drew a crowd of reporters outside the main interview area near the strength complex, eager to hear what he had to say at long last.

Coach Bo Pelini has a policy that those who have yet to play can't be interviewed. So even though Green, whose recruitment drew considerable attention, has been at Nebraska since January and participated in spring practice, he was off-limits to reporters.

Some figured he wouldn't be giving any sanctioned interviews this season, or next spring even, because he would be redshirted. Even after the freshman from Dayton, Texas, moved ahead of junior Latravis Washington on the depth chart, some were convinced Pelini would try to redshirt him.

Sure, if Zac Lee suffered a really serious injury, Green would get the call, but not against Florida Atlantic. At least that seemed to be if not a majority

opinion at least a popular one.

But with 12:19 remaining in the game, with Nebraska leading 42-3 and Lee's work done for the day, Green was sent in. The backfield included I-back Rex Burkhead, also a freshman.

Burkhead had played in the first half, going in for the first time with 8:07 remaining.

The experience was "amazing, absolutely amazing," said Green, who broke off a 49-yard run on his second series and scored a touchdown on a 1-yard option run five snaps later. "If I could do it over again, I'd do it a thousand times, a thousand times over again."

He had the enthusiasm of a freshman, all right. But he's wise beyond his 18 years. Consider this response to a question about whether he considered the prospect of redshirting a "luxury."

"Actually, I had two mindsets, really," Green said. "It was the smart Cody and the athletic Cody. The smart Cody was, 'Oh well, he needs to redshirt to learn the offense.' And the athletic Cody was, 'Hey, I need to get out there and play.' So whenever that hit, I think the athletic Cody . . . took the mainstream, and he was like, 'Hey, it's time to get up, step up and be a man about it, and take control.'"

Obviously, both mindsets include complete confidence in the judgment of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Shawn Watson. And when redshirted freshman Kody Spano went down with a knee injury early in training camp, Green figured he probably would play this season.

Green's debut was something of a footnote to a decisive victory against an out-manned opponent. Lee showed he has what it takes to lead the Cornhuskers this season. He passed his first test.

But clearly, the future is now at Nebraska. Pelini is playing to win. According to the participation chart, 26 freshman and redshirted freshman saw action against Florida Atlantic.

Green and Burkhead were among seven true freshmen who played. "Hey, me and Rex, we especially made a little connection that we know that we're going to be together for a long time, so it's better to make a companion right now than to do it later," said Green.

Burkhead, also a Texan (Plano) who drew similar recruiting attention, "was amazing, absolutely amazing, especially to be a true freshman out there, absolutely dominating," Green said.

"The way I look at it, he dominated, and you can actually thank (starting I-back, junior Roy Helu, Jr.) and the coaches for that because, heck, they push him; they push him hard."

Watson has pushed Green hard, too.

At the start of the game, Green and Taylor Martinez, also a freshman quarterback, were signaling in plays from the sideline. "I knew exactly what my role was from the beginning," said Green.

He'll have to cope with being Lee's back-up. "The athletic part of me is going to be itching to get in there, but I think I'll be able to man it up and just take care of that," he said.

It's amazing, so amazing. He's just a freshman. **N**



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definitely be watching. And we are
ready to take on all the challenges.**



2009 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Results
Sat, Sep 05	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat, Sep 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	1 p.m.
Sat, Sep 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, VA	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sep 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	6 p.m.
Thu, Oct 08	at Missouri *	at Columbia, MO	8 p.m., ESPN
Sat, Oct 17	Texas Tech *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct 24	Iowa State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct 31	at Baylor *	at Waco, TX	TBA
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov 14	at Kansas *	at Lawrence, KS	TBA
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri, Nov 27	at Colorado *	at Boulder, CO	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Dec 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, TX (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)	TBA

* Conference games



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